

Chapter 1

Disclaimer

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Adventure Comedy Drama Fantasy Romance Shounen Compiled by : Feinzell

Synopsis

In this world, the concept of 『Level』 exists.

Other than those who are living as a monster slayer, at the most, ordinary peoples' 『Level』 is between 1 to 5.

Because of that, those who work as monster slayers are special people, bestowed by the Gods a special 『Job』.

There are eight special 『Jobs』, which have battle ability. 【Warrior】, 【Monk】, 【Priest】, 【Wizard】, 【Thief】, 【Merchant】, 【Hunter】, and 【Shaman】.

There are also three special roles that differentiate from the eight battle classes. 【Nobility】, 【Hero】, and 【Magi】.

However, within the large population only a few earned those blessings. At most, all are 【Villagers】, which is the lowest and weakest, tasked with daily duties.

A 【Villager】 doesn't have the ability to fight; trying to defeat a monster is suicide.

One day, a two years old child noticed something.

If you defeat a monster, you can be rich.

Associated Names

LV999の村人

Chapter 2

Prologue

“Today’s earnings is...800 Silver? I wonder if this is a strange amount around here?”

Kagami muttered while inside the forest outskirts of the town, holding a bag of gold the size of two clenched fists.

At the same time, he noticed that he had been fighting monsters until dusk without eating a meal. He decided to take a break, dropping his sword near a tree and sitting down with his back against the stump.

Although he felt tired, when he imagined how he would spend the money he had earned, his heart nearly burst with joy.

Using the money he had saved until now, he could hire an exclusive housemaid or manage a casino. He could also become an entertainer, or something more extravagant. Ordinary people would end up having to use their money for emergencies and wouldn’t be able to save up such a dangerous sum of money.

Kagami Kouji. He was not from an amazing household; his parents had run a rather ordinary tailor shop and had passed away when he was young, leaving behind a poor orphan.

In the hands of this youth now was...800 Silver. The amount was about half of what one would make as a tailor in a year, and he had obtained it in just one day. He sat on top of the stump, holding the bag of gold coins in confusion.

Of course, he didn’t own just the 800 Silver in his hands. He had managed to

amass 5480 Gold, and in this world, where it was said that an ordinary person would use an average of 50 Gold in their lifetime, he possessed a massive fortune.

If Kagami, a boy who had come from a normal tailor shop, said that he was a rich person, one could only say “It is a life worth living.” (Xant: aka jealousy)

Kagami had noticed that when you defeated the monsters living in this world, you were able to obtain money. The world had expanded with the birth of the concept “Status”, and monsters were said to have spawned at the same time. Although the reason for this was unknown, this situation was seen as normal.

You obtain money from defeating monster, and if the city issues a specific monster subjugation request, you can get even more as a bonus.

This was something Kagami had realized when he was two years old.

He had, by chance, met a few of the weakest and most famous monsters, Green Slimes, that had entered the village.

Kagami had known that monsters were a dangerous existence and had earnestly thrown sticks and stones that he picked up from the ground around him. This way, without directly fighting them, he defeated the Green Slimes uninjured.

At the same time he obtained 80 Bronze, one of the currencies of this world.

Gold, Silver, and Bronze. 1 Gold was worth 1000 Silver, and 1 Silver was worth 1000 Bronze.

80 Bronze was the amount that Kagami received from his parents once a week, and was enough to buy roughly two pieces of candy for him to eat.

Obviously, this was a not lot of money. However, even though the candy was cheap, it was the food that Kagami valued the most, so the 80 Bronze that could buy him two pieces was seen as a large amount.

This caused Kagami to think that earning money was “easy-peasy.”

However, earning money from fighting monsters was equal to courting death.

“Papaaaaaa!”

“My...Sonnnnnn!”

In fact, there were lots of people who got killed by monsters.

The people who were killed by Green Slimes, which were said to be the weakest, were probably the most numerous.

In fact, Kagami had just passed by a parent and a child who looked like they would be killed by Green Slimes.

Although Kagami had, from the beginning, defeated them by throwing things, if he had hit them with his bare hands he would have certainly been killed.

Even if they were said to be the weakest, monsters were a dangerous existence and there was always a possibility of death.

Green Slimes used poison. What would happen if they attacked in numbers? It would surely become a threatening situation.

As Kagami watched the parent and child pair, he noticed that they did not seem to have much fighting experience.

If one had fighting experience, their posture wouldn't be so stiff. It was obvious the parent had grown up without fighting any monsters until now.

That wasn't very strange. In this world, it was normal to live without meeting monsters. Without experience, the possibility of dying was extremely high.

At any rate, if the situation didn't change, the parent and child pair would be killed by the attacking Green Slimes.

They would first receive a heavy blow, as if struck by an iron ball, and then be killed by poison.

However, this was only the case if you were Level 1.

A person's Level is the numerical growth value given to them by the God of this world. The value is proportional to the person's physical ability and it is possible to get convenient things like skills and magic, depending on the person's living environment. Some people could even receive Roles, given by God.

As for the Green Slime's attacks that would feel like the impact of an iron ball, someone who was Level 5 would only feel like they had been hit by a snowball. However, since the possibility of the parent and child pair being that Level was low, Kagami swiftly attacked the Green Slimes.

There were 8 roles that were capable of being called a Role: Warrior, Martial Artist, Priest, Magician, Thief, Merchant, Hunter, and Shaman. The three Roles that had a special power said to come from a Divine Revelation were: Royalty(王族), Heroes(勇者), and Sages(賢者).

Finally, the role with the largest population. They were weak and devoted themselves to developing their towns through Agriculture and Inns...the Villager.

For Villagers, who didn't have the power to fight, trying to live on monster subjugations was equivalent to suicide. Those who gained combat experience through such suicidal behavior were nearly nonexistent, and standard Villagers ranged from Levels 1 to 4.

Whether or not they gained experience or lived normally, Level 10 was the limit for Villagers.

Even if the parent's level was higher, they would be killed because they didn't know how to fight.

Kagami, who recognized this immediately, picked a small, round booger from his nose and flicked it.

Immediately afterwards, the Green Slimes were suddenly crushed to death.
(TN: from a booger, yep)

The parent and child pair gaped in shock at the baffling phenomenon. They continued to watch, dumfounded, as the chunks of slime split apart and 80 Bronze appeared and fell to the floor from the defeated Green Slimes.

“Iyo-Were you fine? Are you ok? Yes, you’re fine.”

Kagami casually walked up to the parent-child pair while scratching his short, black hair. He did not look like a cool 20-year old who was skillful or attractive. Instead, he looked rather weak and seemed like the perfect example of a typical Villager.

“Th-this...Did you defeat it for us? How on earth did you do it?”

“Even though I only flung a booger at it?”

Kagami began picking up the fallen 80 Bronze while saying something that was impossible to understand. The parent-child pair had the same thought, while breaking into a cold sweat. “Bo...Booger?”

Was this young man strong enough to flick away the booger with that much power? Or was the booger unexpectedly dangerous? After witnessing such an insane scene happen in front of them, the parent-child pair considered their thoughts to be too trivial.

“Hey, boy. Take this.”

Kagami passed the 80 Bronze he had picked up to the young boy.

“The one who defeats the Green Slimes is the one who obtains the 80 Bronze too, right? Isn’t it amazing?”

“Eh...No, I don’t think so at all.”

“Yes, you are the definition of failing at life.”

After Kagami responded to the young boy, who had already associated Green Slimes with fear, he began walking back towards the town.

The parent-child pair watched his figure from behind and rose with surprise when they looked at Kagami’s Status Window.

It is possible for an individual to freely configure what information is shown on their Status Window.

Basically, parameters were displayed on the Status Window, and it was possible to figure out someone’s weaknesses from it. There were also many who displayed everything to the public to show off their strength.

However, the only information that Kagami had opened to the public was his Level and the Role given to by God.

Normally, there would have been nothing surprising about showing only these two pieces of information.

Even so, the parent-child pair stared at it, with their jaws wide open and their eyes bulging out of their sockets.

Kagami Kouji

Role: Villager

Lv: 999

Chapter 3

Chapter 1 – The Sprouting Grass Which Declares That “We Are A Party Of Heroes!”

Clear Earth, a world of magic and swords. In this world, death was tied to the concept of HP.

The rules were very simple.

If your HP dropped to 0, you died. If there was even 1 HP remaining, you would survive, although you would suffer from a serious injury.

However, the concept of HP wasn't the same as it was in a game. It was only there to reflect a person's health.

For example, hurting someone by flicking their forehead dozens of times wouldn't reduce their HP.

Essentially, HP would only drop when you took any substantial damage.

Kagami had heard from his mother that long ago, the Great Magician had wanted to display the Status of people's abilities. Over time though, it started to represent a person's identity and worth, eventually becoming a tool to manipulate people.

To Kagami, however, such things were trivial.

The idea of being discovered lying down in your house leisurely, going to the

opposite side of the world instantly with a incomprehensible vehicle called an airplane, or strengthening your body by doing push ups and running were now just stories from the era of legends.

Now that he was living in this world where nobody knew him, Kagami had properly recognized this world as his reality.

Rather, Kagami had concluded that this world was great.

Kagami said something similar to a catch phrase: "This era is the best."

If he had been born back in the era of legends, he would definitely have become the legendary 【Neet】, who had been said to be good at doing nothing.

"Uoooooh! Amazing, this guy is amazing! With this, it's 48 wins!?"

Such a reality had been enjoyed to the fullest.

This was Kagami.

Ninety percent of the gold in this world was used on entertainment.

Kagami had known this since he was young.

Thus, Kagami had decided to become stronger, in order to obtain gold.

However, at the same time, Kagami had known of his own weaknesses.

Villagers only have a limited amount of power to fight with.

Even if you struggled to get stronger as a Villager, your Status wouldn't be nearly as strong as the Status of a person that possessed a role that was worthy of being called a Role.

However, this only applied when the people being compared were on the same Level.

If you just raised your Level, even Villagers could obtain enough power to pierce Green Slimes with boogers.

That was why Kagami had earnestly continued to defeat Green Slimes with long range attacks until his Level increased. In his first battle, he had noticed that he could defeat them without taking any damage if he played chicken and only used long range attacks.

As his Level rose, he would continuously move on to monsters that dropped larger amounts of gold. He had lost plenty of sleep during those twenty years, due to relentlessly killing monsters as if he were possessed.

As a result, Kagami had reached Level 999.

Now, Kagami could fool around in those entertainment sites; venues from legendary eras of the past. In present times, Game Centers had become Holy Lands where only millionaires could play due to the high costs of energy consumption.

“That guy, who on earth is he...?”

“Who knows, but seeing that speedrun of his, he probably comes here quite often. Even if he has a capable role and subjugates monsters, he wouldn’t have that much money to spend. I wonder what prosperous merchant family he comes from?”

Fundamentally, the role in one’s Status was not available for the general public to see. When two people conversed on equal terms, Level and Status became essential for distinction. It was said to be a breach of mannerisms to claim that one method of comparison was superior another. As an example, in the past it was often said that Villagers couldn’t fight even if they bought weapons.

Therefore, the public only needed to know a person’s Role when they

requested a mercenary to accompany them in business or to formal meetings and appointments.

However, even Kagami had been hiding his Role. The reason was simple. The role of the Villager was thoroughly ridiculed. However, it would be a violation of mannerisms to be revealed as one. Since it was troublesome, it wasn't shown to the public. The answer was to have money. As long as you had money, you would become known even if your role was hidden.

“Excuse me,.. You guys look like you aren't just watching. Let's compete. Zeze.”

Kagami's playfulness, which seemed to be for fun, was actually due to his hunger for competition.

“Do-don't be ridiculous! It's not like we can play a game where the average merchant can normally bet 100 silver! We're just talking together because we're on a break from work right now!”

After the conversation, Kagami left the Game Center. It was foolish to play with 100 Silver, since there was no benefit for the people who just played normally. It was possible to stay at a high-class inn for five nights with that much money.

Kagami liked playing games. There was also the minimum amount of money needed to play. He was doing everything that he thought was fun, and, of course, gambling was also a favorite.

This was because Kagami, who had reached Level 999, had grown bored of earning gold.

Earning gold was not fun. It was often said that it might be good to have a job in order to be able to do fun things.

The average amount of gold obtained in a person's life was 50 gold. Kagami currently held a little bit more than 5480 gold. Frankly speaking, there wasn't

really a point in earning anymore. There was a limit to how much land someone could buy, and people were restricted to owning a maximum of two buildings in the residential areas of the Imperial City.

Even then, Kagami, who was constantly chasing after monster subjugation quests, did not have a residence. He had considered hiring an exclusive housemaid, but since it would have been bad to drag someone around, he decided against it. As for casino management, although he would probably obtain money faster than if he kept defeating monsters, he had reached the conclusion that beating monsters was much more enjoyable.

Even while searching for another hobby, Kagami continued to earn gold.

If Kagami was asked if there was something he wanted, he would probably answer “No”, but he did have another reason for making money.

“...4515 gold now, huh? It’s still far away.”

After he left the Game Center that he had visited on a whim, Kagami went to the quest issuing Guild’s window, which had been his original goal.

The Adventurer Guild was a recognized organization that issued quests for monster subjugation on behalf of the Imperial Capital, which controlled the politics and industry of the country.

The Guild paid compensation for completing their quests. Kagami had spent the week defeating monsters and completing quest after quest, earning a total of 5 gold, which was a lot of money.

Although 5 gold was a lot of money, it was not rare for there to be people holding that much inside the Guild. Even people who only had physical strength could diligently subjugate monsters.

Normally, Kagami would carry his bag of gold coins as if he were trying to hide it, but here he could carry it without worry.

Strong warriors were walking back and forth as they admired the newly issued quest that had been put onto the board, while groaning men quickly walked by behind them.

Kagami took the displayed parchment to the Guild's window and then left.

This parchment was the Kingdom's request for Adventurers. In addition to the request's goal, the product list recorded items, weapons, and armor that could not be obtained normally.

Although you had to buy them with money, it was well worth it. Among these items were potions that could be bought anywhere, and equipment that contained unique magical powers.

The Kingdom handled a wide variety of goods, which included limited-edition furniture from the best districts in town, somewhat dangerous toys, pets, exclusive maids and butlers purchasable from nobles, and even rights to slaves. However, these maids and butlers varied in prices as they differed in values. Generally, maids started at 20 gold while butlers at 50 gold. However, their price changed depending on their place of origin. If they came from the best areas in the district, they would cost up to 1000 gold, while being sold by nobles further increased their value to 2000 gold.

Items worth 5000 gold included unbreakable and treasured legendary swords that were said to be able to cut through any object, though there was no one who had bought an item for such a high price.

Above that were 6000, 7000, 8000, and 9000 gold legendary class goods, although he had never heard of someone wanting to buy them.

The reason was obvious. Such equipment was unnecessary. Even if you bought it, it didn't mean that you would defeat the Demon King with it. Would anyone putting their life on the line for the sake of their world buy such things for that much money?

People who were that stupid didn't exist.

However, there was one such idiot.

That person was Kagami.

Kagami's goal was to buy something that was priced at 10000 gold. Well, what was it? He didn't know what it would be. It had been declared to be an item that a Kingdom had never seen, in exchange for 10000 gold.

【10000 Gold: ???????】

No one had ever seen a person obtain this item. They were apparently called Unknown Products. This 【Something】, was equivalent to paying 200 times a person's lifetime earnings. Nobody had tried to obtain it because they didn't know what it was.

Kagami had been put here to enjoy life to the fullest. It was a completely unknown item that nobody had managed to obtain. There were no other products that could make his heart dance this much. If anyone were to get an unobtainable legend, only that person would know of it's true form.

The exhilarating sense of superiority felt after obtaining such items, coupled with the image of greatness, became the driving force for Kagami to earn gold.

However, although this was Kagami's final goal, it did not mean that he was in a rush to obtain it. He wasted money at his own pace, even as he steadily amassed the required amount of gold.

“Today is...over there. It's sushi.”

He was also trying to splendidly spend the 5 Gold he had earned today.

Despite the fact that he had only been able to consistently earn one silver until recently, Kagami couldn't forget the flavor of high-grade sushi. As he walked in the middle of the street, he drooled like an idiot as he imagined the taste of it.

This town was located southwest of the Imperial City, which was in the center of the world. It was said to be the eighth biggest town relative to the Imperial City. Its location near the sea caused many peddlers, traders, and traveling merchants to gather in order to purchase or sell rare goods. They were followed by people who were involved with monster subjugations, ranging from the members of the guild to mercenaries and even adventurers.

Although it had a much lower population, the town called Balman was just as vibrant as the Imperial City.

Even though Kagami did not have a base here, he often visited this town. It was because there were many interesting things here that attracted many people. The Game Center was one of those things.

“Haah-, as I thought, the town square is over there. Interesting.”

Kagami muttered while licking the ice cream that had captivated him on the way to the restaurant.

Recruiters often recruited party members, such as Guild members and skillful Adventurers, at the town square in order to complete quests. They often delivered speeches at Villas.

There were people attempting to recruit party members here and there, but today was slightly different.

An abnormal crowd of people were surrounding the lectern in the center of the Square.

“Gentlemen, don’t you want to change this world? Leaving your mark eternally in history...Don’t you want to become a legendary hero? That’s what I think! And...I want to release this world from suffering!”

“Uoooooooooooooh!”

“Why don’t Monsters disappear? Why isn’t the Imperial City issuing quests?

Even if you move from town to town, won't you only be hired as mercenaries?"

"Uoooooooooooooh!"

"Why must children...hold swords from an early age? Why do they have to rely on strong people? It's because there are Monsters!"

A blond, friendly, and handsome youth, who wore a circlet decorated in jewelry, stood at the lectern.

He was well-dressed and wore a Protector that covered his vital areas, as well as elegant white clothes and a cloak that was neat, even though it should have been dirty.

Although the youth didn't look strong with such clothes, he was hotheadedly saying things to the Adventurers.

By all rights it would be natural that people who couldn't judge his power would consider him weak after seeing his tidiness, but this man was an exception. A Status Window was displayed next to the man, showing the Role **【Hero】** clearly written there.

It was the Role that was called the rarest of the rare, since there were so few of them in the world. Few people were lucky enough to meet one, so almost no one ignored the speech, instead crowding around him.

"Shut up, you're troubling the neighborhood."

This was Kagami's first thought after meeting such a rare entity.

While it was good to give speeches and it was interesting since heroes were so rare, the people in the neighborhood should be considered as well. This was what Kagami thought as he reminisced about an abnormally loud old man who had lived in the neighborhood in the past.

“The one controlling the monsters is the Demon King! That’s right, if you don’t defeat the Demon King, who is the root of all evil, peace will never come! In order to defeat the Demon King, I’m recruiting people who are confident in being able to fight together!”

“Uoooooooooooooh!”

“Follow me! It’s such a rare chance!”

The tough men in the Square grew excited. There hadn’t been anyone who had managed to defeat the Demon King yet. However, there had been those who had barely managed to reach the Demon King’s castle, and there were parties that had even managed to corner him. These parties always had someone who held the Role of Hero, which was the reason for the excitement.

With the possibility of one’s accomplishments going down in history, they all jumped at the chance to help the Hero.

“Hah...so sexy, a chance to go down in history. Moreover, wouldn’t it be a pleasure to go on a trip with such a beauty?”

“And it’s not just that. Look at that lady’s Role, she’s a Sage right? Their party doesn’t just have Heroes, but also Sages. If that’s the case, then perhaps this time we will be able to succeed in subjugating the Demon King.”

There was a woman standing, in a cowering position, next to the beautiful blond youth on the lectern. She had long, indigo hair and the bulge of her chest was large enough to be seen through her shirt. She was a stylish and slender woman who was shorter than the hero and looked somewhat innocent. It could be seen that she was still young enough to be called a girl.

Although she looked as if she wanted to sleep, she had a beauty that would cause people to turn around and stare if she walked through the town. The Sage was wearing many robes that were still able to expose her skin’s whiteness and a miniskirt which prioritized ease of movement. There was no reason for a healthy male to not be enthusiastic.

“Although, weren’t there Sages and Heroes who partied with each other in the past? Despite this, the Demon King remained undefeated and his strength has gone down in history. He was so powerful that he was known in legends as a fierce monster.”

“Idiot, a party isn’t perfect just because it has Heroes and Sages. Weren’t the other allies weak? In fact, wasn’t there a party that had made it to the Demon King’s castle even though they didn’t have any Heroes and Sages?”

One of the brawny warriors muttered something like “I’m only a strong man,” and laughed loudly.

In fact, although one didn’t require a Hero to reach the Demon Lord’s castle, a party without one would be seen as a group who fought dirty to get where they were.

This was the reason that Heroes and Sages would eventually end up placed into a party to go against the Demon King.

“Oi, Hero-sama! I’m 25 years old, and after doing monster subjugations, I have confidence in beating the crap out of monsters! How’s that? Won’t you take me?”

The big man who said this raised his hand straight up into the air.

The Hero who had been standing on the lectern directed his line of sight to the Role that the man displayed.

“...Warrior huh? Fumu. What Level?”

“Hehe, listen and be surprised...it’s 86! I absolutely won’t become a burden!”

The big warrior proudly opened and showed his Status Window as he said this. The surrounding people who were gathered in the Square raised their voices in praise with an “Ooh-”.

“86 is...no good. Next.”

“H-hey! Don’t screw around with me! Why did you say that it’s no good!”

Everyone gathered in the Square raised a voice in question at the way that the Hero had cut off the man with a single blow. Actually, the rejected big man cried out so loudly that they couldn’t understand it.

“You’re no Warrior...If we’re talking about close combat here, then that’s my Role. You wouldn’t be able to do more work than me, so I can’t take you into the party.”

As the Hero said this, he opened and showed his own Status Screen.

The number 90 was clearly displayed beside the Level.

When the Warrior man saw this, he was at a loss for words.

“Although I don’t know what kind of life you’ve come from, I also had the resolution to get to this point. If someone who has a Role that specializes in close combat wants to go with me, they have to be at least Level 100.”

Many people raised a heartbroken voice at this declaration.

“Wait a minute! What exactly is the Level of the Sage-sama?”

“The woman is Level 42. That’s enough, isn’t it?”

“En-enough you say...! Her Level isn’t even half of mine!”

“She is a Sage. She will definitely become an existence that can support me. She has far more value than you to begin with. Also...she is a princess of this country.”

No one in the Square, with the exception of one person, could hide their surprise. The one person who wasn't surprised didn't care.

"She is the third princess of the Imperial City Hexal Doria; a righteous woman who received her fate as a Sage during childhood and has continued to practice since then. If she could defeat the Demon King...If a blood relative of the King were to defeat the Demon King, wouldn't the world become peaceful at that time?"

The Hero said something that was completely suspicious politically. However, at that point the large Warrior no longer had the energy to retort.

"Also, I'm recruiting up to two people! As it has been publicly announced, we still need to grow. As a matter of convenience, it's impossible to afford to go on a journey with a big group! I can bet you that we will recruit again at the time of the decisive battle. Those who just want to be invited to slay the Demon King can gather at that time!"

After the declaration, the Adventurers who had gathered began to leave the Square one after another. Half of the remaining people were curious spectators, while the other half were uselessly trying to become members of the party.

By the way, exp could be obtained by defeating enemies. The value of exp dropped as the Level rose, but it would eventually make one stronger, and if you formed a party, it would be evenly distributed to each member.

It was more akin to being invited to a battle, rather than a party. Therefore, it was necessary for a party to have four people. As for formidable enemies, if one only wanted to defeat it, it was best to attack it with a large number of people.

"We-well take me along! I'm a Level 80 Monk!"

As the next person, a middle-aged, bearded, and slender man, introduced himself, he opened his Status Window.

"Nope, next please."

“Wh-why!”

“The possibility of this becoming a long trip is high, and I do not know how many years it will take. It will be troubling if your movement suddenly worsens after a few years...and also, your defense is too low.”

The middle-aged Monk fell onto his knees, mutter “N-No way.” Even within roles and Roles, the Status wasn’t necessarily equal. A slight change in Status could be caused by one’s living environment, training that didn’t generate exp, or even eating habits. Skills and Magic had to be remembered too, so even if it was the same Level Monk, there would be a difference.

Kagami thought that if the Hero had managed to see that much, he would have to be considerably skilled.

“Well then, how about me! I’m a Level 73 Monk and I’m 20 years old!”

“No good, next.”

This time a slender young Monk introduced himself and, once again, was immediately refused, causing Kagami to change his mind about the Hero.

“Wh-why not!”

“You don’t have the goal of getting stronger in the future. Sorry, but give up.”

Honestly speaking, being able to see through them to that extent was normally impossible. Rather, it was impossible.

Kagami began to wonder if there was a certain evaluation criteria that this Hero used.

That was...the importance of enjoyment.

“U...Um, how about me? My Level is 50 though...”

The next one to call out was, like the Sage, a very young and small woman who had peagreen hair in pigtails that reached down to her shoulders.

Although it wasn't like she was very beautiful, she did have big, adorable eyes which released an aura that made men unconsciously want to protect her.

“Fumu...accepted. Come join the party.”

The girl Monk's expression brightened at the words of the Hero. At the same time, a storm of boos rushed in. Although one of the onlookers listened to reason, it was impossible to only respond to the crowd with the puzzling reason of “Her future is full of promise.”

Although this was only Kagami's point of view, it was possible that the Hero's role wasn't actually suited for close combat and he would probably welcome others into the party if their Level was higher than 40.

However, that only applied to women.

The enjoyment the hero was planning to have was that of a fun harem trip as he was surrounded by beauties. Then he could obtain honor by subduing the Demon King. This was probably the most accurate conclusion. That's right, the Hero was a pervert.

“Yes, ye-s! Woah, what about me! I'll be helpful!”

As a trial test, Kagami raised his hand and only displayed his Role.

“A Villager? Ha... perhaps you're raising your hand in order to get closer to the Princess and me without even understanding your own position? Next. We only have room for one more person.”

Sure enough, the Hero completely cut him off without even looking at his

Status.

Normally, even if someone who had the standing of a Villager raised their hand, you would still look at their Status, but the Hero didn't even try to see it. At this point, it was utterly hopeless for him as a person.

Unless he was extremely strong, he would probably not be welcomed into the party.

Kagami lost all interest in the Hero who was overflowing with a teenager's lust and walked away from the area as the Hero chose a voluptuous woman who held the Role of Magician.

The Sprouting Grass Which Declares That “We Are A Party Of Heroes!” Part 2

The quest that Kagami received from the Guild was to subjugate 30 Blue Devils in the dungeon called,【The Ancient Cave】.

Many monsters could be found in the area surrounding the Dungeon, but the stronger ones were located inside. This was because the monsters outside were born naturally, while the monsters inside were formed through the Dungeon’s miasma.

In other words, their strength was determined by the Dungeon’s miasma.

The Dungeon would continue creating monsters even after reaching full capacity, causing some of the monsters to leave the Dungeon.

This was the reason why the Imperial City had issued this quest.

It was possible that one would encounter Blue Devils in the forest, on the way to the Ancient Cave.

If that happened, it would be extremely dangerous for Peddlers.

The Ancient Cave was a dungeon with a high risk of death for any party without at least four Level 70 Adventurers. Blue Devils normally stayed in the Dungeon, but if even one of them were to leave the Dungeon, it would become dangerous enough that low level Adventurers get chills simply from understanding why the quest had been issued.

“One Blue Devil drops 34 silver...so 30 of them means a total of 1020 silver. Completing the quest is 1 gold huh...easy money! I say today will be cake...no, crab! This Kagami has chosen crab today.”

However, this was only good news for Kagami. He wasn't satisfied with just cake and had wanted to try eating crab. For Kagami, Blue Devils were as threatening as a dog and about as dangerous as Green Slimes would be for Warriors. Not only were they at the level of a dog, they were as threatening as a small dog like a Pomeranian.

“Gigiiiieegyaaaaaa!” (Xant: we're approaching black knight sfx here)

So, with the strong desire to fill up his piggy bank, Kagami hunted the Blue Devils. Even though normal people wouldn't want to encounter them, Kagami had degraded himself to the point that he hoped that they would appear quickly. Regardless of this fact, Kagami showed the true difference in ability between him and the Blue Devils.

When the Blue Devils appeared, they would screech in a voice that made one's hair stand on end. It was normal to see Kagami change directions and head towards the agonizing screams.

“Th-this is a r-rare drop! If I sell it, it would go for 700 silver...it's decided, Black Beef it is.”

When monsters were killed, they could drop items in addition to gold. They were popularly named as Drop Items. These monster-specific items, often known as Rare Drops, scarcely turned up.

“A Blue Devil's horn? Even though it looks like this, it's surprisingly valuable, huh?”

As Kagami muttered, he confirmed the amount that had been automatically added to the quest form.

“15 remaining...? Although it’s easy to defeat them, finding them is such a pain.”

Kagami grumbled as he walked inside the Dungeon, which looked like gloomy ruins formed from earth and rubble.

Kagami could not find any more Blue Devils, to the extent that his surroundings became completely silent. He looked at the inside of the Dungeon with irritation as he took a piss and yawned.

As he walked towards the end of a passage, Kagami saw a person’s silhouette squirming around. The people who visited this Dungeon were rarely in danger. Unless they were a reckless idiot, they would usually be a powerful person, like Kagami.

Speaking of a person’s figure, the only monsters inside this Dungeon that appeared similar to humans would be the Blue Devils.

“The possibility of a group of Blue Devils being here is 99.999%, ooooh!”

Kagami raised his tension and approached the prey that had finally appeared with a dash. As he neared it, he saw the dim shadow of a human come into focus.

The instant he saw the blond hair of the figure in the vanguard, Kagami decelerated and swerved to the side of the pathway, wearing an expression that said it was the end of the world.

“A party of heroes?...heroes aren’t really that amazing...it feels about as noteworthy as seeing dog food on the side of the road.”

Kagami began to search the Dungeon while he felt embarrassed for having been in such high spirits. It was better not to wonder about why this party of Heroes had come to the Ancient Cave.

“Umm...hero-sama, didn’t something approach at a tremendous speed a little

while ago?”

The female Monk with peagreen pigtails asked the Hero.

“Hmm? Ah, it was probably the monster that we were scared of and ran away from.”

“Is...that so?”

The Hero said, while holding a Blue Devil scale in one hand. It was a Drop Item that he had obtained through defeating the Blue Devils earlier. He did not need to worry about anything, in contrast to the girl Monk, who worried about the shadow that had disappeared.

“Even so, Rex...was it? Not bad. It’s my first time being able to defeat Blue Devils this easily.”

“Of course, after all, I am a Hero aren’t I? Even if that wasn’t the case, Blue Devils can be easily defeated as long as we have three strong people.”

The glamorous Magician with beautiful, wavy indigo hair said to Rex, impressed, and the blond Hero responded.

“Fighting an opponent of this caliber is a waste of time. Our goal is to defeat the Demon King and bring peace to this world.”

The dignified woman who had made a speech in the Square asserted coldly, as she forced her way in between the Hero and the long, indigo haired woman.

“Oooh, if it isn’t the enthusiastic princess. You had such a different atmosphere a little while ago.”

“Please stop addressing me that way. Right now, we are equal as comrades. I’m no different from a common warrior. As I mentioned earlier, my birthday is in October, and please call me Krul Hexal Doria.

“Since that’s too long, I’ll call you Kuu-chan. It’s fine to call me Palna, without honorifics.”

The tiresome female Magician called herself Palna Viole. For some unknown reason, Krul’s cold expression vanished and she mumbled “...Kuu-chan” while looking slightly happy.

“U-um! Is it also fine if I call you Krul-san? Of course, it doesn’t matter if you don’t use honorifics with me, Tina!”

The female Monk, Tina Beerus, bashfully suggested to Krul as her cheeks flushed red. Krul again nodded her head willingly, as her face lit up with an unhindered smile.

“Yea, this side of Kuu-chan is definitely cute. You should relax more.”

“I-I can’t do such a thing! Since my childhood, my father has been preparing me to subdue the Demon King! This trip isn’t something to enjoy!”

Krul said as she puffed her cheeks and looked away from Palna.

“U-Um...Krul-san, why has your goal been to defeat the Demon King since your childhood?”

When she saw how Krul acted, Tina asked an unexpected question.

Wearing an expression that made it seem as if she had been entrusted with an important mission, Krul slowly opened her mouth to speak.

“Long ago...there were no less than 196 countries. Now, after the appearance of monsters and the Demon King in Clear Earth, only three countries remain. Hexal Doria was once one part of a country called Japan. Do you understand what that means?”

“The size of the areas where people live in have shrunk.”

Krul asked Palna with a strained expression. The subject was common knowledge to all humans and Palna easily answered.

“That’s exactly right. It’s all because of the Demon King, who robbed us of our place to live with his monsters. We have to take it back...we shouldn’t have to live in a world where we are afraid of monsters! It might be surprising but...this was a world that originally didn’t have monsters.”

Krul, who had trained and studied to defeat the Demon King while growing up in the Royal Palace, appeared to know a little about the history of the world. Palna put on an unpleasant smile as her intuition as an older sister told her that this trip would be enjoyable.

“Well, even though I understand that, why is our first destination this Dungeon? Isn’t this in the exact opposite direction of where the Demon King lives?”

“Ah, I know that.”

Rex mentioned this to Palna and Tina, who had glanced at him and asked the question they had been thinking.

Then Rex, who had been examining the wall inside of the Dungeon, glanced at Palna and beckoned her to come over and take a look at the wall.

“Look at this.”

As Rex said so, he pointed to a pattern that emitted a faint, pale orange light inside the dimly lit Dungeon. The pattern was completely covered in dense moss due to the Dungeon having been formed from earth and rubble. Although it would have just been seen as mysterious if there weren’t any monsters, the presence of Blue Devils, which were high level monsters, only made the location induce fear.

“Is there something wrong with this pattern?”

Tina asked, unable to understand the difference between the pattern that Rex pointed at and the other patterns.

“There is a hidden room inside this Dungeon that only the Royal Family knows about. Following this pattern’s path will lead to that place.

When Rex said so, Tina checked the pattern a second time. It did seem to be leading somewhere, and the path that they had passed through until now had been marked with dots.

“Hee, this Dungeon has such a trick. Is there something over there?”

“Something a Hero can only equip if they are over Level 90...a Holy Sword is resting there. Until now, no one has obtained it...there’s no doubt that it’s the strongest weapon.”

Although Palna had thought that something might be there, it was unexpectedly something very important, to the point that she felt a little anxious.

“You say no Hero has obtained it until now...why has the Royal Family been so stingy with such a great weapon? Wouldn’t we have defeated the Demon King if we had it?”

Rex gave a wry smile when he heard the question.

“As you know, although the Role that’s called Hero is rare, it doesn’t mean that only one of them exists. It had probably been left behind for a Hero that came from the Royal Family’s lineage. Maybe they were worried that this Hero would be killed by the Demon King and become unable to continue the Royal line.”

“Well then, why does Rex know this information?”

“I didn’t say? It’s because Krul is this country’s princess. The King didn’t want his cute daughter to be killed, so he graciously taught me.”

Krul wanted to say, “that’s right,” in response to Rex, but decided to only nod instead.

“The subjugation of the Demon King will finally happen this time. A party with Heroes and Sages...why don’t we complete it with the legendary weapon? Nobody had managed to defeat him before because the party hadn’t been completed!”

Regardless of whether or not he believed that he could defeat the Demon King, Rex smiled fearlessly and headed towards the path that was marked by the pattern floating on the wall of the Dungeon.

Krul followed the Hero without a moment’s delay.

“We might have joined a really amazing party, right Palna-san?”

Tina slightly panicked as she thought that the possibility of them subduing the Demon King was higher than they had thought.

“Well, it seems like it will become an interesting trip from here on out. Fufu... let’s enjoy it.”

Palna, who had confirmed that this party would be more interesting than she had imagined, chased after Rex and walked up next to him while smiling.

“Which reminds me, Rex, although everyone decided their nicknames earlier, is it fine to just call you Rex? To begin with, what’s your full name?”

“My name is Rex...just Rex.”

Rex responded and walked toward the end of the passage, as if dodging the question. He did not care about nicknames. The most important thing was to

subdue the Demon King so he could get fame and status. While repeating that to himself in his mind, Rex Chickyboy (レックス・チクビボーイ) headed towards the room with the Holy Sword.

The Sprouting Grass Which Declares That “We Are A Party Of Heroes!” Part 3

“With this it’s down to 28...Only 2 left?”

About a dozen or so minutes after encountering the Hero’s party, Kagami, who had been surprisingly lucky, nearly subjugated enough Blue Devils to complete the Quest.

Normally, people would prioritize safety on the first day and complete the Quest on the second day, since Blue Devils could be dangerous depending on people’s Levels. However, Kagami had nearly completed it after merely three hours.

Blue Devils were blue skinned creatures with wings that were unusable in the Dungeon. They had abnormally large, red eyes that made them look similar to ermines. They also attacked irregularly by using magic or using the Dungeon’s walls to tackle their opponents and pierce them with their tridents.

Although he encountered other monsters, it took a while before Kagami could find the last two Blue Devils.

In an instant, they changed into Gold and Drop Items, disappearing afterwards.

“Today sure is a lucky day, though I don’t understand why.”

Originally, higher Monster encounter rates usually resulted in a higher chance

of death due to the increased danger, but for Kagami, there was only an increase in the chance of gold dropping.

Utilising their incredible speed, the provoked ermines attempted to tackle him from outside his field of view, but they slammed into the ground as if hit by a flyswatter and became gold, which Kagami triumphantly picked up.

“...I have to hurry.”

Kagami suddenly heard a muttering voice nearby.

Looking back through the passage at the crossroad where the voice originated from, at the last moment, he saw a young lady dressed in a tattered, hooded cloak cross the passage.

Although he only saw her for a moment, he came to the conclusion that it was a woman from the red hair that had peeked out of the hooded cloak and the white thighs that he had seen between her knee-high socks and mini-skirt.

Kagami noticed that the height of the figure was only around 130 cm; she was clearly a child. He guessed that she was probably around 10 years old.

“Eh, isn’t it dangerous?”

Kagami hurriedly began to follow the young lady that had disappeared into the passage.

Although Kagami had already been fighting Dungeon Class Monsters at that age, he went through many near death experiences. The abnormally high encounter rate made the situation even more dangerous.

Although he recognized that she must have great abilities to be able to come to this Dungeon, he continued to chase after her.

Moreover, Kagami knew that nobody else had his kind of lifestyle. Still,

whether or not it was their own fault, if there was a possibility of death and they weren't a bad person, Kagami would help them. This was the one policy that Kagami valued more than earning gold.

Although he wouldn't go on journeys specifically to save people's lives, he unintentionally accumulated good deeds due to this simple policy of his: 【Don't abandon people who are dying right in front of my eyes】.

Still, while Kagami would save people in front of him, he wouldn't do it at the expense of his own life. Never get involved with things unknown. A coldhearted policy that was also as friendly as it could be.

“Hold up, wait! The girl over there! This Dungeon is far more dangerous than you might think! STOP!”

Kagami shouted at the girl immediately after catching up, but she didn't try to stop at all.

Since she had definitely noticed Kagami, it was obvious that she was deliberately continuing. Kagami, even if confused, wouldn't hesitate to protect her from harm, whether or not she was strong enough to not require any help.

Of course, it would normally be very suspicious for a young man wearing rough clothes that offered no protection to challenge the Dungeon, since it was dangerous. There were also Monsters that mingled with human society, although maybe that was foolish of them since they tended to act strangely. In fact, the girl who was running from Kagami looked back at him with doubt in her eyes.

“Ahead! Look ahead of you! There are Monsters!”

Kagami warned the girl, who glanced back at him dubiously.

Three Blue Devils were standing right in front of her and blocking her way. Although Kagami felt relieved when she stopped, the girl immediately walked past the three Blue Devils.

“Hey!? Why aren’t you killing these Monsters, child!”

The Sprouting Grass Which Declares That “We Are A Party Of Heroes!” Part 4

The three sleeping Blue Devils instantly noticed Kagami's figure. Since they would begin to swoop down and attack him immediately, he abandoned his thoughts of whether or not she was an illusion.

“Oops...I should pay attention, or else that girl...is she over there?”

Before the three Blue Devils could even approach, Kagami dealt a backhanded blow to the Blue Devil closest to him, slapping it into the Dungeon's right wall; whilst the girl wondered who this person was.

Then, another Blue Devil immediately tried to attack but Kagami struck it with his fist, sending it into the Dungeon's left wall. The remaining Blue Devil that tried to attack from the front was blown away by a roundhouse kick to its chest.

All of them were destroyed by a single hit from Kagami, changing into Drop Items and Gold.

“Argh! Damn it! I lost sight of her!”

Kagami seemed to cry out, but he intentionally stopped following the girl and began to pick up the Drop Items and Gold. However, that was not because he gave Drop Items priority over the girl's safety.

It was because he realized that the girl wasn't in danger.

Kagami had come to a conclusion as to what the girl was. In this world, there were no humans who didn't attack monsters.

"There isn't a settlement nearby so...I wonder what I should do?"

Even though Kagami no longer had a reason to stay because the quest for subjugating 30 Blue Devils was complete...He was genuinely worried about why the girl was in such a place and hurried back to the passage that the girl had faced, following the faint traces of magic remaining in the air.

"Umm...Hero-sama. Somehow...isn't the number of monsters strangely high?"

"...Indeed. Since not all four of us have exceeded Level 70, continuing to fight would be a little difficult."

Even though it would be easy to defeat a lone Blue Devil with the high Level 90 Hero Rex's abilities, it would be more difficult to deal with a large number of them simultaneously. Just defeating them was easy, but it was important for him to protect his low level allies.

If multiple enemies attacked at the same time, Rex would be unable to block all of them and the three backline supporters would be in danger.

"I've almost exhausted my body's magic...I will run out after three, no, four more battles."

If the party's formation was disrupted, Krul, who was still Level 42, and her dress would take a lot of damage from just one attack.

Of course, Tina would immediately respond if someone got hurt. She healed her teammates' wounds by converting her magic power into healing magic. Although Rex was there to receive most of the damage, Krul took some damage due to being in the vanguard.

Tina also received damage because she was continuously using support magic near Rex. Palna was the only one to take no damage at all.

“Palna-san is amazing. You steadily continue to avoid enemy attacks while properly supporting Hero-sama. Someone as slow as me...couldn't do such a thing.”

Tina said, while looking at Palna with admiration.

“Even though I'm a magician, there are a lot of times where one dives into a dungeon alone, so for this occasion I made it my goal to get used to fighting.”

Palna answered while dusting off her clothes. The dust was a side-effect of her magic, a magic attack that released a void blade.

“I'm also Level 78, but we would have turned back a long time ago if Monk Tina wasn't here, so you are just as helpful.”

Palna said while facing Tina, who was a head shorter than she was, and rubbed her head without hesitation.

“I-I'm sorry...for becoming a burden.”

Krul said while shrugging her shoulder, clearly impatient and fatigued.

Krul, who was not at the proper level, had raised her level until now while being protected by a party and was not used to combat situations where she was the target of the attacks.

For Krul, who had fought as the only rearguard member with three vanguards, it was the first time she had experienced Monsters approaching her from such a close distance.

Due to her status as a princess and her level of training, she couldn't be exposed to any danger, causing her to become a significant burden in combat.

“Don’t worry about it. The Princess’s level is lower than ours, so it’s fine if you just get used to it for now.”

“But...thanks to me, it’s become so dangerous that everyone had to keep looking back at me. I have to be more useful or such things will...”

“No, the Princess is already giving it her all. Take a look at this for me.”

As he said this, Rex pointed at the far side of the passage. A light could be seen, unexpectedly glowing in the normally dim Dungeon.

“That light is...in other words, it’s our goal.”

Palna said while smiling, instantly understanding what the unusual light indicated.

“Finally...Even if we encounter monsters later on, we can just run away from them while prioritizing returning to the town. It will be a lot more fun than completely defeating them.”

Tina said after letting out a sigh of relief.

Rex, who had been impatient with the speed it had taken to get here, tottered along as if he had removed some weights and raced as if in a fervor into the room that was emitting light.

“...This is the resting place of the legendary Holy Sword that was passed down by the Royal Family!”

The party had gotten used to the dim light of the Dungeon and reflexively squinted their eyes in response to the white light emitting from the room.

As their eyes gradually got accustomed to the light, they all stared at the room’s strangeness.

It was a wide, empty, dome-shaped room with white light emitting walls, and despite being inside the dungeon, the place had a feeling of divinity.

In the center of this room was a white pedestal that surely had the legendary Holy Sword stuck in it. Standing in front of the pedestal was the figure of an approximately ten year-old girl in a tattered cloak, squirming and rummaging around while obstructing the party's field of view.

“...Who are you?”

The Sprouting Grass Which Declares That “We Are A Party Of Heroes!” Part 5

Rex questioned the girl, who was moving around suspiciously in front of the pedestal.

However, the girl was extremely focused and did not seem to notice the Hero's presence. Instead, she examined the pedestal in an agitated manner.

“What are you doing?! And who the hell are you?!”

The Hero shouted after he grew impatient with the girl, who had not shown any reaction.

When she finally noticed him, the girl instantly froze and fearfully looked behind her. She had braided red hair, large pupils that were clearly childish in shape, a typical small nose and mouth, and a hostile expression.

She glared at Hero Rex's party like a cornered animal.

Rather than wondering why a girl was in a place like this, Krul sensed the abnormal magic power the girl gave off.

“Ah...That woman is probably a demon. I think she is the reason why there are more monsters inside the Dungeon.”

As soon as they determined that the woman in front of them was an enemy,

the party readied itself for combat.

There were three large tribes in this world; the Humans, the Monsters, and the Demons. Monsters were an existence that spawned in large quantities. Although they looked very similar to humans, they carried a huge amount of magic inside them.

As for Demons, their appearance was almost human, but their abilities differed significantly. Their physical strength and intelligence was on par with those of a Hero and a Sage, respectively, going far beyond a normal human's capabilities.

"What are you doing...in a place like this? Oh, I know! Is your objective the Holy Sword?!"

Rex stepped closer as he spoke, causing the girl to retreat another step. The top of the pedestal came into view, and Rex noticed that there was no Holy Sword stuck inside it.

"You bitch...where have you taken the Holy Sword?"

Demons and Humans were bitter enemies. Powerful weapons that only human Heroes could handle would only be a threat to Demons. Rex readied himself to attack her, believing that she had come to steal the Holy Sword, because powerful weapons that only human Heroes could handle would pose a threat to the Demons. Therefore, it was natural for Rex to target her. However, moral questions such as "Why should I attack such a young Demon girl?" never crossed his mind.

It was common knowledge that Demons were enemies that had to be defeated, even if they were like this girl. Magic emanated from a Demon's horns, and that magic caused Monsters to spawn, which was inconvenient for Humans.

Demons and Humans had different affinities with magic. However, there was no need for Demons to attack Monsters because Monsters were born from the magic of the Demons and would usually obey them... Of course, Monsters would oppose the Demons if they decided to kill one another, but that would never happen because they weren't enemies in the first place. This was why Demons

received the same treatment as Monsters.

The only purpose Demons had in this world was to be destroyed. Since Demons were born with an abnormal amount of magic, the subjugation of the Demon King, who continued to produce large numbers of Monsters, was the greatest goal of the Humans.

“Answer me! Where is the Holy Sword?! How did you pull it out!”

Holy Swords couldn't be pulled out if one didn't have the Role of Hero. Even so, there was no Holy Sword stuck inside the pedestal. There was also no sign of the girl holding the Holy Sword.

“I...am not doing anything. I'm not pulling anything out.”

She muttered an answer while facing the Hero, sweat dripping from her cheek. He let out threatening roar that pierced her eardrums in response.

Even so, there were no signs that she was concealing the Holy Sword on her, nor did she have the stature to completely hide it.

“Rex-sama. What should we do?”

“There's a high chance that she's telling a lie... Either way, she's a Demon. Let's take her down.”

The moment after saying this, Rex drew his sword and began to focus, causing a pale, white light to start shining from his whole body and cover his sword, making it look like the light was flowing into it.

“Don't get near her or lower your guard just because she's still a child. Take her down in one hit with long range attacks.”

Palna and Krul nodded in response to Rex and began to cast their spells.

The moment Rex gave the signal, large blades of ice appeared around Krul and shot towards the girl.

Rex slashed in a straight line towards the girl along with Palna's blades of wind, releasing a flash of light.

Whether or not they had made a mistake in calling her a Demon, in that moment, before Rex even finished his attack, something flew towards the girl.

It suddenly stopped in front of her and received all of the damage from the party's attacks.

"You guys...what are you doing, ganging up on someone who's only a child?"

The collision with Rex's flash of light caused a tremendous explosion to ring out, along with clouds of smoke.

An alarming voice rang out, ignoring the tense atmosphere. Rex threw a question at the intruder.

"Who are you? Her ally!?"

Rex's party fell back a few steps, alert to the presence of the person hidden within the smoke.

Immediately after, Palna generated some wind with her magic and cleared away the smoke.

"Who...are you?"

The Hero's party was bewildered by the strange spectacle. The one who was standing in front of the girl was, without a doubt, a human.

In addition to that, it was a young man who had entered this dangerous, high level dungeon while lightly equipped. No, the plain cloth and leather clothes he

was dressed in did not even qualify as light equipment.

He had short black hair and a mediocre face. The man yawned despite the current situation.

“Me? I’m just a villager passing by.”

The Sprouting Grass Which Declares That “We Are A Party Of Heroes!” Part 6

“Vill...ager?”

The person’s response distressed Rex, and he had a plethora of questions to ask.

How did he protect himself from their attacks? Why was a villager in such a place? Why was he not equipped with any weapons or armor? Why did he protect the Demon?

Rex could not understand the person in front of him. Why was he picking his nose in this situation? Perhaps he looked down on them? Everyone in the Hero’s party had similar thoughts.

“The Villager from back then!?”

Rex finally remembered that he and the villager had momentarily interacted with each other only a few hours ago. Kagami’s presence had been too weak, and Rex had completely forgotten about him.

“...How did you...?”

“Eh?”

“How did you block our attacks? What did you do? Exactly what kind of item

did you use?!”

Why was he here? Rex’s pride ignored the fact that Kagami had protected the Demon. He had let the Villager in front of him shatter his confidence. Rex was in disbelief and could not forgive Kagami.

“An item? Ah...yes, fufu, shall I inform you?”

Rex waited for the answer with a sour face while Kagami smiled sentimentally and picked his nose, as if he was making fun of the Hero.

“The strongest item I used...is my right hand.”

“Your right hand...you say?”

As he spoke, Kagami pulled out a booger and flung it away with a *Pin* sound before putting his finger straight back into his nose.

“Wait, haven’t you only been picking your nose this whole time?”

“Yes, I crushed all of your attacks with this right hand that picks my nose this much.”

“Impossible! With a hand covered in boogers?”

“Hold up, it’s not covered with them, right? Just how much mucus do you think my nose makes?”

Whether or not what they pointed out had hurt him, Kagami took his finger back out of his nose and sighed.

Krul stepped forward in an attempt to calm down Rex, who stared at Kagami angrily.

“Whatever you did, at least you are uninjured. It would have been terrible to kill a regular citizen.”

Krul politely lowered her head. She did not care about how he had protected the Demon. Her priority was to find out why this Villager had protected the Demon, and whether or not he was an enemy.

“That child is a Demon. Did you protect her because you knew this, or did you not know anything? Please tell us.”

“No, this child is not a Demon.”

Kagami replied to Krul’s question, as if to declare that they had misunderstood. Of course, Kagami knew that the girl was a Demon.

He also knew that the Heroes would try to kill the girl because she was a Demon.

“I can feel that girl emitting Demon magic. There is no doubt that it’s a Demon.”

“Ah...she isn’t a Demon. Because she is my little sister.”

Everyone in the hero’s party looked at him when they heard his words. The girl muttered “eh?” in a dubious tone, making the situation even more puzzling.

“Y-your sister? H-however...this magic? Though you do seem to be a Human...”

“It’s this, the horn of the Blue Devil. Don’t you know about its effects? I made my little sister hold it.”

Kagami said as he reached into the girl’s worn out cloak, as if he was going to show them the horn of the Blue Devil that the girl supposedly held.

As long as the Blue Devil’s Horn still held magic, it could prevent Monsters

from becoming hostile to the holder. Bottles and wineskins were needed to prevent the magic from dissipating.

However, this magic was the same type as the magic emitted from Demons and would increase the spawn rate of Monsters when used in a dungeon. It was extremely aggravating for any other people who entered the dungeon at the same time.

“I was completing the Blue Devil quest when it just happened to drop, so I made my younger sister hold it. I didn’t bring a bag to store it in but I didn’t want to waste it, so I told her to keep it safe.”

Kagami pulled out the completed 30 Blue Devil quest sheet with magic and showed it to the Hero’s party.

Of course, Kagami had taken the sheet out of his Bag of Holding.

As Kagami talked with the Hero’s party, he glanced around quickly, hoping that the Demon girl’s presence was spawning a large number of Monsters. He evilly thought about how nice it would be if another quest like this one were to be issued.

“A...Villager? And two of them? 30 Blue Devils? I have never heard of this!”

Tina unintentionally raised her voice, surprised that the girl was not a Demon and the Villager had already completed the quest.

“That’s not much of a joke. Are you really a Villager?”

Kagami showed his Status Window’s Role with a wry smile when Palna accused him. Palna muttered “You’re kidding...” when she saw that Villager was indeed written there.

Palna had definitely thought that he was lying when he called himself a Villager. They had never heard of a Villager being able to enter such a high level dungeon, so Tina and Palna could not hide their astonishment when they saw

that he was telling the truth.

“The Blue Devil’s Horn effect only lasts for about five minutes...”

Although the party was surprised that a Villager was in such a high level dungeon, even if he had the protection of a Blue Devil’s Horn, they no longer felt uncomfortable, and Krul asked another question.

“Excuse me, may I take your sister’s hood off?”

“That’s a little...well, my little sister is a shy person after all.”

“Why? Won’t we be convinced if you allow us to take a quick look?”

“My sister...if I show her to you, she would go berserk trying to hide her embarrassment. It’s a sickness she has.”

“But...I have never heard of such an illness?”

Kagami never thought that he would be questioned so insistently and he realized that his deception was falling apart. After observing the situation, as if realizing that it couldn’t be hidden any longer, the girl removed her hood on her own.

“H-Hey!”

When she took off her hood, it became clear that the hood had been hiding more than just her head. She had red hair that glittered like a jewel, with a woven pigtail that hung down on the right side of her face. There were two small horns on the back of her head that had grown bent downwards and mixed with her shoulder length hair.

Kagami lightly sighed with an “Acha-” when he saw this.

“Please turn around.”

Krul immediately instructed the girl. The girl turned her back to Krul and exposed a horn growing on the back of her head.

“It’s as I thought...you don’t have an excuse for this, right?”

The girl gave up after seeing Krul prepare her Rod. She felt gratitude toward the Villager youth who had appeared and protected her.

However, excuses could only go so far.

If the excuses went on any longer, they would stop thinking of this Villager as a companion and he would be in danger. She didn’t want that to happen.

“No, look! This horn is...an accessory.”

However, Kagami, who had not give up for some reason, came up with a farfetched excuse and tried to protect the girl.

The girl stared at Kagami, who had not even tried to abandon her even though it had been the perfect opportunity to do so, with round eyes, surprised.

“An accessory? There’s a horn growing on the back of her head no matter how you look at it!”

The Hero’s party grinned at the pathetic excuse.

“No...this, it’s that, on here. I put it onto the back of her head.”

“Y-yes?”

It was painful to just imagine how such an impossible accessory would be attached, and the Hero’s party unintentionally made doubtful expressions and sour faces.

“Lo-look! Such feelings are...I said, ‘Hoi!’”

Kagami grasped the Blue Devil’s Horn and forcibly thrust it into the side of the pedestal, causing a loud, dull sound to echo in the surrounding.

“Eeeeh...”

Tina, Palna and Krul backed away from him.

Only Rex was astonished at Kagami’s behaviour, to the point that his eyes were bulging.

This Villager had, with his strength alone, thrust into and broke the pedestal, which had been made from a highly resilient, special material in order to seal the Holy Sword until the Chosen human took it.

“B-but! Even though animals form such horns, I have never seen any monsters do so!”

Tina’s words were painful for Kagami to hear.

“This...umm...this, after the horn broke once...it was held together with an adhesive, and to improve the horn’s form just now...it was pierced.”

Palna furrowed her brow and uttered “Haa?” in confusion at the words.

Kagami quickly considered the situation and immediately followed up with more words.

“Ah, wrong! Look at this! I gave it to my cousin! I made a mistake! As for my little sister...that’s right! Custom! The horn I attached to her was specially made!”

The Sprouting Grass Which Declares That “We Are A Party Of Heroes!” Part 7

Kagami looked like he didn't care that he had lost the argument as he told the obvious lie to the Hero's party with a bragging face, brimming with confidence. Krul cutely let out an unintentional laugh. If he was this desperate, it didn't matter whether the girl was a Demon or not.

“Fufu..Ahahaha! I understand. Let's leave the topic of the horn alone. Even though there might be a different reason, I won't ask about it any more.”

Kagami snickered to himself when he heard Krul's words.

With a heave-ho heave-ho, a mysterious festival attended by many Kagamis started in his mind while crying in his heart, “This is the Power of my excuses!!!!” (Xant: He uses weird words...imagine opening a stage curtain.)

“However, the Holy Sword is a different matter.”

Rex suddenly shouted seriously, immediately bringing Kagami back to reality.

Rex tolerated Krul's selfish remark, and after he put the issue of the Villager's abnormal abilities aside, the only thing remaining was the objective that he had come to this dungeon to fulfill.

“What has your sister been doing here, in this room?”

The girl did not answer the question that Rex threw at her.

What was the girl's purpose in coming to this room? She definitely wouldn't talk about her own reasons, and even if she did, it was possible that she wouldn't be able to direct them to the location of the Holy Sword. She wouldn't even try to answer them.

The Holy Sword had already been missing when the girl arrived at this room.

Such a thing would normally have to be on the pedestal...Since the Hero's party appeared but didn't have the sword, there was nothing to explain its disappearance.

Kagami realized that the girl's objective had definitely been to destroy the Holy Sword, but he didn't voice his thoughts.

"I said that my sister got lost and ended up here by chance."

"This isn't a place that you can find by accident! Even if it happened, there's no way that the Holy Sword would disappear at the same time!"

"But it did happen didn't it? Or rather, who cares if the Holy Sword has disappeared?"

"I...I am the Hero! The Chosen Human! The only one who is allowed to wield the Holy Sword!"

"Eh...sorry. If you're talking about the sword that was stuck in here, I already found it...and brought it back to town quite a while ago."

Kagami unintentionally apologized to Rex, who was desperately shouting "I'm a Hero!".

Everyone there turned and stared at Kagami when they heard his calm words.

Even though they had many things they wanted to ask, no words came out. Even the Demon girl was at a loss for words when she heard remarks that should never have come from a normal Villager.

“You said...the Holy Sword, that was the Royal Family’s heirloom, was brought back?”

Rex asked Kagami, trembling with fear.

“Eh!? The Royal Family?...It was THAT Royal Family? Crap! I took it back and sold it to merchants as fast as I could! It’s probably being sold for a high price at a store right now.”

“S-sold...?”

Rex distantly heard those words and forgot to close his mouth.

Meanwhile, Kagami had remembered that he had sold the sword that used to be here for a high price and thought: “So, it was a sword that was passed down within the Royal Family!”, convincing himself.

“Don’t lie to me! Only those who have the Role of Hero are permitted to wield that Holy Sword, so it must have been sealed by an Ancient Sage’s magic! It would be impossible for you to carry it!”

“Ah...certainly, it was a bit heavy. I think it was about 800 Kilos. Still, I managed to hold it normally? I also pulled it out of the pedestal.”

The atmosphere froze as each member of the party wondered how a human that could mention a weight of 800 Kilos could exist.

“That story...is such bullshit! You Villager...there isn’t any reason for you to be able to hold it, is there!”

“It was certainly heavy. If I used it, it would have been the way I used a normal sword. Even if it’s probably too heavy to use, if I managed to pull it out, wouldn’t it be possible for me to wield it? If you had tried, maybe you would have been able to pull it out as well.”

“What kind of idiotic shit are you...”

“No no, hey now.”

Kagami looked at Rex, who didn’t believe anything he said, and judged that it would be faster for him to show them directly. He slightly lowered his waist and firmly grabbed the edge of the pedestal, looking like he was going to attempt to lift the pedestal with all of his strength.

Tina, Palna, Krul, and the female Demon all thought that it was absolutely impossible.

However, Rex, remembering the absurd way the Blue Devil’s Horn had been thrust into the pedestal earlier, broke out in a cold sweat as he thought that it might be possible.

A few seconds after Rex thought that, cracks began to appear on the ground.

“That’s...impossible.”

Instantly after the cracks formed, they widened and split open, causing a screeching, echoing noise. After the earth shook and a huge bang resounded, Kagami was lifting the pedestal of the Holy Sword, as though he was the embodiment of the Earth’s wrath.

Dust and sand filled the air, and a dull sound resonated from the ground, as if its will had been torn away.

The soil scattered in front of Rex. Kagami, who was standing a bit further away, looked at Rex with a beaming smile.

“Hey?”

Kagami threw away the pedestal as he spoke, and it landed with a thud. After seeing this, everyone was speechless.

This normal Villager had done such an outrageous thing in a composed manner.

All because of a Villager. No Role should be capable of doing such a thing, yet the young Villager in front of them had shown them otherwise.

Fear shot through Rex’s body, underneath his shock. Until now, whether people trained on their own or were familiar with fighting, he had thought that no other humans of his age would match his level.

Rex realized that there was no limit to excellence and his mind snapped. The person that stood before him was the embodiment of a monster.

“L-Level?”

Rex barely managed to squeeze the question out of his mouth.

“999.”

Kagami stopped teasing him and casually displayed his Status Window and his Role.

The displayed description clearly stated,

Role: Villager

Level: 999

Everyone else in the room froze, as if they had turned into statues.

The Sprouting Grass Which Declares That “We Are A Party Of Heroes!” Part 8

It was impossible. That number had never been seen before.

Levels rose by one after a person managed to gain 1000 exp.

Fundamentally, the experience for raising a person's level was gained when that person grew physically and mentally, whether they did special training or just defeated Monsters.

You could quickly gain experience by defeating Monsters, but there was a limit to the amount that you could receive. For example, you could only gain exp from Green Slimes until you hit Level 3, because Green Slimes were Level 3.

Anyone was able to see a Monster's Level by using 【Spectacle】, a lens-like item that was sold by the Quest Guild.

In order to get exp to raise your Level, you had to defeat Monsters that were at an equal or higher Level.

Your Level wouldn't rise even if you constantly defeated weak enemies. Also, exp wouldn't be received if you beat an enemy equal to your Level with someone else's help.

Just as the name “exp” indicated, it was only a measure of one's experience. When one was in a party, only the members who contributed to defeating an enemy would obtain a significant amount of exp.

Even though it was possible for Level 1's to get exp from subjugating Blue Devils while in a Level 70 party, there wasn't much of a difference from the exp they would gain when defeating Green Slimes on their own.

That was because the exp would only get evenly distributed for the Level 70s in a Level 70 party. Lower leveled members would get much less exp, even if the party fought enemies that were overwhelmingly stronger.

Furthermore, exp was not obtained unless one contributed to the battle.

Although the support class, Monk, could easily obtain exp by supporting their allies, others had to take enemy attacks or damage the enemy to get exp.

Therefore, there weren't many low Level Adventurers who would take the risk of death and form a party with a high Level Adventurer. There also weren't many high Level adventurers who would take and willingly share exp with a person that would only be a burden.

There were convoys whose primary purpose was to gather gold and Drop Items without interference. Although some people would level up from saving others from death, most of the members were aiming to get rich from participating.

Regardless of whether one usually formed a party with people at the same Level, it was normal for a Hero-like party to level others in order to complete a special objective.

Also, the Villager was a weak Role. When a Level 3 Warrior and a Level 3 Villager fought, the Warrior would win.

Even when a Level 30 Villager fought a Level 10 Warrior, the Warrior would win. The Villager was weak enough that no one would recruit them, and even if they raised their Level they would be useless.

It was commonly said that Villagers who managed to get gold would save it

and then pay someone to Level them because of their weakness. This caused most Villagers to accept that only other Roles could get to higher Levels.

However, the strongest Villager Rex had ever seen before had only been Level 30. Even if they raised their level, Villagers were worthless in a fight.

Although they were equivalent to Level 30 monsters, there was no point in forcing a Villager with weak abilities to fight when there were many other Roles that were far stronger.

Still, the Villager in front of him had a Level value of 999.

“I-...I-...Impossible.”

Rex voiced everyone’s opinion of Kagami while trembling.

Reaching that Level was something that was impossible. Even the Legendary Hero, who had barely managed to reach the Demon King and was once referred to as the Strongest Arriver in History, had only been Level 253.

Yet the man in front of him, who was not only of a similar age but...a Villager, the Role most likely to die, was a higher Level than that Legendary Hero.

It was impossible even if the world had turned upside down.

“How on earth did you do it? What did you do to reach that Level!? And as a Villager! How? Answer...Answer me!”

Rex had completely forgotten about the other matters, including the Holy Sword. Ever since he was five years old, he had been special, and he had thought that he would be the culmination of everyone’s hopes and expectations.

It was a mission that only he could complete. It was impossible for anyone else to do it, so he struggled to become stronger and always fought. However, the man in front of him had revealed a number so high that even he hadn’t been

able to reach it, despite his own efforts.

What was it that he couldn't forgive? Rex could not forgive the reality that a Villager, the most difficult Role to level, had climbed to Level 999 instead of himself, who was given the Role of the Hero.

Instead of being at a disadvantage, he was stronger than Rex. An existence that was much stronger than him would be the pinnacle of the human race, and Rex was unable to accept it.

"Maybe it's because I've been fighting Monsters everyday?"

Kagami replied while yawning, as if the reason was inconsequential. Kagami's actions irritated Rex, due to his pride.

"If it's just that, I've also done the same thing! Even though you seem to be telling the truth, that number is...impossible."

"If might be the same if you were just defeating regular Monsters."

"Just by defeating regular Monsters? Don't fuck with me! I've beaten more Monsters than anyone else and even did special independent training...!"

"Shut it, you damn annoyance! Do things like how I raised my Level or what I've done until now even matter? This is reality! No more talking!"

Kagami realized that he couldn't take his statements back or keep talking even if he had to return to a regular life, so he roared at the Hero and decided to leave.

"Hey, let's go, little sister."

"Eh? Eh...ah, yeah."

The girls in Rex's party also had many things that they wanted to ask. However,

they were unsure if it would be alright for them to say anything and could only watched as Kagami began to leave while pulling the Demon girl's hand.

“Wait...If you have so much talent, what are you doing? What is your goal in life? If it's you...I'm sure that you could defeat the Demon King!”

However, for the Hero, this was something that involved his pride and he had to ask for an answer.

“Eh? I'm just living normally and saving up gold...Since the Demon King and things like that don't matter much to me, I'll leave it up to the Hero-samas. The present Demon King isn't really bothering me anyways.”

Kagami answered as if he was rejecting the Hero's goal in life. For Kagami, the Demon King was beneficial existence that spawned Monsters so that he could make money.

There also wasn't a good reason for Kagami to subjugate the Demon King. Even if Monsters were a danger to humans, as long as the situation didn't change, Kagami did not care.

Essentially, 【It doesn't matter to him, whether he gets defeated or he defeats them.】

“...S-such reasoning!”

Despair, anger, scorn, a sense of defeat, and various other emotions welled up inside of Rex. As strong as he was, he couldn't do anything against Kagami.

He also had nothing he could say. He had claimed that the reason for his strength was that a Hero's existence was needed to fight the Demon King, but a Villager had appeared and made him look foolish.

Kagami had stolen the words “Pride is human nature” from Rex.

As Kagami passed Rex, he whispered at a low volume, only loud enough for Rex to be able to hear him:

“You still don’t know this world’s System.”

Rex didn’t understand the meaning of these words. He looked at Kagami, trying to figure out his intentions...and became speechless.

Kagami was wearing a sorrowful expression, as if he was in despair from knowing everything...even though he had claimed to be uninterested. What did he know, and what had made him make such a face?

What did he know to be able to reach his Level?

Rex stopped listening because he was too afraid to know.

“By the way...although the Royal Family is the owner of the Holy Sword...”

Krul asked the question that she considered most important as Kagami tried to leave the room. He stopped and bowed at a 90 degree angle.

“I’m sorry, but I didn’t mean to do that.”

Kagami, who had thought about leaving if things went well, instantly apologized.

Chapter 11

The Sprouting Grass Which Declares That “We Are A Party Of Heroes!” Part 9

“Is this...a theft of the Royal Family’s heirloom?”

“No, but...it’s not an exaggeration to say that the sword dropped in the Dungeon.”

“But the Royal Family considers this room to be a secret warehouse.”

Kagami’s forehead began to drip with sweat, as a retort rose up in his thoughts. “Who cares you damn idiot! It wasn’t made inside the Dungeon!”

It was an outrageous crime to steal things from the Royal Family. The Royal Family’s Princess being right in front of him made Kagami feel anxious.

As expected, with a member of the Royal Family in front of him, he couldn’t say, “Don’t put your possessions in a Dungeon like this, where anyone can accidentally enter and take it! It would be safer in the castle!”

“Well...it’s fine if it gets replaced, right?”

“That sword is priceless.”

Shut up! Although I had a merchant appraise it to confirm the price of the item, I idiotically sold that sword for just 300 gold. I feel like crying...

However, Kagami couldn't protest because he couldn't afford being labeled as a criminal.

Among the people who served as the Imperial City's Magicians, there were some who could use magic to brand criminals.

Normally if you killed people or committed other crimes, you would be branded as a criminal and your Status Window would automatically be dyed red. However, people from the Imperial City could testify on your behalf.

On the other hand, if the Imperial Magicians marked the Status Window with a skull and crossbone, you would be denied access to all facilities in the country, be ruined, and chased out of the Imperial City.

People with faded crossbone marks could return to the Imperial City and show that they had atoned, getting a remission displayed on their Status Window. However, this would also cripple that person for life.

For Kagami, whose only goal was to enjoy his life, this was fatal.

"Well...what can I do to have this overlooked?"

Kagami, who was the quickest to respond, looked at Krul and asked her.

"From the beginning, that Holy Sword is the sword that was made to defeat the Demon King."

"Meaning?"

"Would you like to join our party and defeat the Demon King together?"

The Demon girl twitched and frowned upon hearing Krul's words. She scowled at Krul before staring at Kagami with an agitated expression.

Kagami faced her and opened his mouth widely, showing off a wry smile as if it

were a genuine one.

“No, thank you.”

Kagami replied clearly, and the Demon girl looked relieved.

“Why!? If you have that much power, I’m sure you can defeat the Demon King! You don’t seem to be aware of the fact that nobody has ever accomplished this!”

“I don’t know.”

When Krul persistently tried to tempt him to join them, Kagami glared back and replied in a serious tone, as if to intimidate her.

Krul’s body instantly trembled and she was at a loss for words from the aura that did not seem to be from a Villager.

Understanding that it was useless to talk any more, Kagami began to move again.

“Don’t you agree that it will be fine if the Legendary Holy Sword is brought back? Since I’ll go find it again and return it somehow, please forgive me on this matter. I also have some responsibility for being negligent.”

Kagami said this firmly. If you thought about it, since he hadn’t named himself yet, he had no fear of being branded as a criminal. He perceived that he would be able to manage somehow if he got away from this place.

“Why...is that? Do you not want wealth or fame? Do you not want to save people that are suffering?”

“Hmm? I do want wealth, but I don’t really need fame. If there are people suffering...well, I’d save them.”

“T-then, at least you have a reason to fight! If you still say that’s not enough...

when the Demon King is defeated, I'll become your Queen!"

Everyone there let out a surprised "Hah!?" in response to Princess Krul's unexpected offer.

"W-wait! Princess...are you saying that you will pledge yourself to a Villager!?"

Rex Chickyboy got impatient and lost his temper. Part of his plan had been to finally defeat the Demon King and, after becoming rich and famous, be pledged to the Princess and rule the country.

"Even so, I am still willing to do it. I've decided that this Villager is worthy of that much, since his power is so rare."

Krul spoke normally, since she had come to the decision with her calm judgement. This was the strength of her desire to defeat the Demon King.

Kagami felt her implacable desperation behind her stern, serious expression and was impressed that she thought about others and not herself despite her young age.

"However, I refuse."

Still, he refused the offer. He had only been impressed.

Although it was not a bad offer for Kagami, whose goal was to gather gold, he had a policy of never replying "Yes" to such requests.

He wasn't worried about somebody defeating the Demon King, since he expected the Demon King to be defeated eventually. However, agreeing to defeat the Demon King himself was a different matter.

"Please...tell us the reason."

"First of all, you are fundamentally mistaken."

“A misunderstanding?”

Everyone concentrated on listening to the seemingly irritated Kagami, who proceeded to explain thoroughly.

“I don’t really think that the Demon King subjugation is an achievement. That is the reason that I won’t help you fight. That’s all. By the way...since these are only my opinions, you don’t have to worry about it.”

“I don’t understand...what you’re saying.”

Everyone else shared Krul’s feelings. They could not understand what he was saying.

Nobody had ever completed a Demon King subjugation. The Demon King was the largest cause of the production of Monsters, and removing such a danger would be a huge achievement for humans.

“Well, it’s fine if you don’t understand. Since you don’t understand, it’s nothing bad.”

Kagami finished talking and resumed walking, putting a foot outside of the room.

“Please wait. Even if you leave, I won’t be satisfied with not understanding. Although I understand that you are incredible, at least tell us the reason that you won’t fight the Demon King.”

Palna finally spoke, genuinely concerned. She had chosen the path of fighting to enjoy a fun life while obtaining wealth and fame, but this Villager did not seem to have the same desire for power.

“Good grief. It’s difficult to try and explain it. It doesn’t mean that you guys are mistaken, so ain’t it fine if you ignore me? There’s no point unless you realize it yourself.”

“At least...just a hint...”

Next, the timid Tina asked a question. The moment Kagami looked back at her, her body trembled and she tried to look away with an “eek!”.

“What has the Demon King done to humans? What have humans done to the Demon King?”

After Kagami finally answered, he left the glowing room and disappeared into the darkness of the dimly lit cave.

Everyone left inside puzzled over the mysterious words that he had left them.

Things the Demon King had done to humans? The Demon King spawned Monsters, which brutally murdered countless numbers of people. Things humans had done to the Demon King? They tried to kill the Demon King in order to release the people from their suffering. That was all. That was the only reason.

As for whether it was funny or there was a reason not to fight, they couldn’t understand it at all.

The Villager had also said that “It doesn’t mean that you guys are mistaken.”

It wasn’t a mistake to try to defeat the Demon King. However, it wasn’t an achievement either. It wasn’t a reason to fight with the Demon King. It wasn’t a reason to obtain wealth and fame?

“No more! I don’t understand it! What is that guy!”

Tina was unable to understand the reason and puffed her cheeks in response.

“That Villager...is probably a Villager who is stronger than any other Role.”

Whether or not she felt depressed with those unbelievable remarks, Palna

sighed and stated her thoughts. She then noticed that Rex was glaring at the entrance of the room.

“Rex? What’s wrong? Staring at the entrance of the room like a beast...if it’s about the Villager from earlier, I am fairly certain that he isn’t in this area anymore?”

“That guy...when he passed me, he said something strange.”

Krul, who was slightly depressed from being rejected, showed interest in Rex’s words.

“What...did he say?”

““You...still don’t know the System of this world’...is what he said.”

“Sys...tem?”

When they heard this, the mystery of the Villager grew.

“That person...what exactly does he know?”

“I don’t know, but one thing is clear.”

Rex responded to Krul, who had put a hand on her chin while staring at the doorway that the Villager had left through. He began to walk towards the cave’s darkness, just like the Villager had, with resolve.

Certainly, he did not know the System of this world. If that was the case, then it would be fine if he learned about this System...and surpassed that Villager. It was impossible for a Villager to be able to do something that he could not.

Things like the Holy Sword didn’t matter anymore. Now, there was something inside him...a reliable power that didn’t need such things.

The absolute confidence to take down the Demon King...to gain this power. He could do it. He definitely could.

“I...must become the strongest of them all!”

A burning desire to obtain the power to surpass the Level 999 Villager lit up inside of him, as if it had become his new obsession.

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 1

When Kagami first defeated a Green Slime at the age of 2, he wondered one thing.

“I wonder why these things contain gold?”

However, this doubt that Kagami held instantly vanished. In this world, it was common sense. A natural phenomenon.

No, if anything, he might have thought that way because he was two years old.

With the existence of common magic spells, Kagami’s doubt vanished before he had even realized it.

Ever since then, Kagami continued to defeat Green Slimes. He made sure to always fight them individually, throwing stones at them, digging pit traps, and occasionally sending them flying, while trying not to get poisoned. He steadily gained experience through stone throwing.

However, there was a limit to the experience he could gain from Green Slimes. Kagami defeated Green Slimes everyday and reached Level 3 in a month.

His next target was a monster that lived near the Green Slimes and the village in great numbers, the Moss Goblins.

It had a boar-like appearance and a body covered in green skin, which increased its eerie appearance. It was a malicious monster that would charge and bite its targets. Kagami had been hesitant to strike a blow against it, but, after becoming Level 3, his body felt lighter than ever and his powerup gave him the confidence to challenge it.

From his point of view, it was easy to defeat them. He defeated all the nearby Green Slimes, but the main objective was to see if he could defeat Moss Goblins. He would die from a single bite, and if they had acted as a group, they would have charged him separately and he would have probably died.

However, he fought them one at a time so that he didn't have to risk such a situation. He avoided their charge, kicked them from behind, and threw stones at them, easily defeating them.

About a year after he started killing Moss Goblins, Kagami reached Level 4. However, he was only Level 4, because Moss Goblins were Level 4 and he could not get any higher, no matter how many more he defeated.

When Kagami thought about what his next step forward would be, he realized that he would need to defeat Monsters that were at least one Level higher. When taking into account the weak Monsters around the village, the next Monsters were Level 7 Goblins.

Maybe, with the adult's advice, it would not be so dangerous to fight Level 7 Goblins immediately? Kagami had always thought that way and he decided to fight with the Goblins, since he would be unable to raise his level for a long time if he did not.

He had fought and defeated Moss Goblins without getting hurt for a year, so surely he would be able to manage Goblins as well. Kagami approached the Goblins like a hawk and attacked them before understanding why the adult Villagers tried not to fight these Monsters.

The answer was very simple; the risk of death was too high.

The green monsters had a figure similar to humans and would bite with their

large mouths if they approached you, just like the Moss Goblins. Kagami would definitely die if he did not use good tactics.

He kept his distance and launched attacks from far away, but because they were armored, they took no damage at all. Despite this, long ranged attacks were beyond them...until they began to imitate the rock throwing.

The stones that the Goblins threw disappeared from his view, and one hit and injured Kagami's right shoulder.

If the trajectory had been slightly shifted and the rock had hit his head, Kagami would have been killed instantly.

Since he had luckily avoided attacks from Green Slimes and Moss Goblins, this was the first time he truly understood that if he was hit with a single blow, he would have died immediately.

How unfortunate was the existence that was called a Villager? He ran for his life, towards the village, and after seeing the Level 10 Warrior who was staying as a guest defeat the Goblins, Kagami completely understood.

Kagami, who witnessed this overwhelming difference of Status, once again remembered a feeling that he had long since forgotten.

“What exactly...are Roles?”

He questioned the common sense behind the natural things and existences in this world.

Kagami was struck by an unspeakable, inexplicable sensation. However, he could not find the answer. Roles were given to people at their birth, and despite the efforts of the many people who tried to find an answer, there was no answer for them to find.

Instead of recognizing this doubt as a wall, Kagami just ignored it.

However, he did not give up. Since a Level 10 Warrior could defeat them, if he could fight with the power of a Level 10 Warrior, even if he was a Villager, he would be able to defeat Goblins.

Normally, when one realized this fact, it was expected for them to give up, but Kagami did not. He did not want to admit it. If he was born as a Villager, he would continue to live as a Villager.

The risk of death was abnormally high, but Kagami didn't plan to be burdened with a risk of death. Therefore, he would not take revenge when he became stronger than he was now.

However, even if he thought about wanting to become strong, he could only raise his Status through meager muscle training, such as doing push ups. If he really wanted to become strong, there was no other option but to raise his Level.

If he wanted to raise his Level, there was no other way other than defeating Goblins.

He could not see a way through his dilemma. Even if he struggled and tried to defeat Goblins, he could not do it by himself.

He couldn't request the cooperation of the other Villagers, since they obviously would not want to die. Also, there was no reason for Kagami, who was still a child, to go out and exterminate Monsters. It was useless to try and hire a Warrior to help him Level Up because he was a child and had no gold. Those were the reasons for his dilemma.

Thus, he was unable to find a way out of his helpless reality, no matter how much he tried. This was the situation when Kagami turned 7 years old.

When he had just turned 7, Kagami was still at Level 4. Although his Status had grown slightly, there wasn't a significant change.

At 7 years old, he hired a Warrior that was staying in the village and headed towards the Imperial City on a carriage, in order to deliver clothes that had been

made at his parent's tailor shop.

They were attacked by Monsters and Kagami's father, who was right in front of him, was killed, drenched in his own blood.

The tale of the existence that called himself Kouji Kagami began that day.

Chapter 13

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 2

“Wow...it’s so cold outside. I want to go back quickly so I can have dinner and sleep.”

Kagami had left the Ancient Cave at a brisk pace, as if he was halfheartedly fleeing from the Hero’s party. He was happy to see that the moon had come out and it had become dark outside.

“The night has a subtle chill. I wonder if I should have planned to go back before it got dark. All right! Let’s go home.”

Kagami placed the Quest form that had 30 Monsters Slain written on it into his bag as he spoke to himself, and began to walk towards Balman City while humming a tune.

“W-wait a moment! Are you trying to leave m-me behind so blatantly?”

The horned girl grasped the hem of Kagami’s clothes in a panic.

Kagami gripped the hem of his clothes and, after glancing at the beautiful red-headed girl, resumed walking without much hesitation.

“Wait! Wait! Why aren’t you stopping for me?!”

“Well, it’s because I’m not a lolicon. I’m not someone who would love a girl

who is young enough to be my daughter. I love sexy and busty older women.”

The girl, stunned, let out an “Eeeh”, while Kagami felt embarrassed from describing his own tastes.

“That’s your problem! Why did you save me? I’m a Demon...don’t you know?”

“Because it seemed like you were going to be killed.”

The girl couldn’t hide her surprise at Kagami’s natural assertion. Surely there wasn’t such a human. Neither Demons nor Humans would believe that someone like that existed.

Still, the existence in front of her was out of the ordinary. He was not only a Villager, but also at Level 999.

“I only saved you. I don’t know what you will do from here. It’s fine if you act freely, since you came to the Ancient Cave by yourself. You’re a Demon so you won’t even need an escort, will you?”

“W-Wait! I have things I want to ask.”

The girl looked desperate, so Kagami stopped walking and listened.

“Earlier, you said that you don’t have any plans to defeat the Demon King. Is that true?”

The girl said while looking up fearfully at Kagami, as if she were a small puppy being scolded.

“I don’t. It doesn’t matter who defeats the Demon King.”

“The Demon King won’t get defeated but...you say that it doesn’t matter. Then, why did you save me, who is also a Demon? I don’t understand the meaning of your actions.”

“Wouldn’t you understand that best, since you’re a Demon?”

The moment she heard these words, she began to suspect that the man in front of her was the existence that she and her father had been seeking for many years.

Maybe, just maybe, Humans and Demons were equal beings in his eyes. This man...knew. He was aware of it. This is what the girl began to think.

She was almost correct. Apart from Kagami, the Demon King was the only other one who knew that the Demons were more than monster spawners. However, it was also true that they were harming humans.

Fundamentally, the purpose of their existence was to be an enemy of humans. Thus, there was no reason to complain even if someone tried to defeat the Demon King.

This was just how things were.

“I’ll change the question. Why didn’t you try to kill me?”

“Isn’t it because you haven’t particularly done anything to me?”

“Aren’t I a Demon? An existence solely meant to spawn Monsters...an enemy of humans.”

“It can’t be helped that you do such a thing, right? You can’t be a cockroach, since you can communicate like humans. Besides, aren’t you guys the only ones who can spawn Monsters? That is rather convenient.”

When she heard those words, the girl was convinced. This man was the existence that she and her father had been searching for.

As soon as she confirmed this, she walked up to the man in front of her, who

was yawning as if annoyed, and bumped into him with all the strength of someone who was serious and determined.

“I-I want you to marry me!”

“Yea, maybe after a million years.”

“Sh-...shut up. At most, in 5 years. I’ll become glamorous, just like you want!”

She felt tense, as if her heart had ruptured, and she told him as if she was prepared to die. Kagami, far from being fazed, returned a seemingly carefree answer.

“Are you an idiot? It is not necessarily okay for a Demon brat to say that she will become a glamorous woman and propose out of the blue in this world, where Demons and Humans are mortal enemies, not to mention that not even ten minutes have passed since we first met. It’s like a scene out of a manga. Is this something that you want?”

“N-No! I have a proper reason for it! I have been searching for a human like you!”

“Don’t lie to me! It’s obvious that we’ve just met, right!? You even followed me to ask something, even though I had planned to separate immediately. Besides, what were you planning to do with the Holy Sword inside the cave?”

The girl hesitated, but she trusted the Villager’s declaration that he had no intention of defeating the Demon King despite being Level 999, and she opened her mouth after making eye contact with him.

“My father is sick...and I heard rumors about new Heroes going on a journey to try to get the Legendary Holy Sword. If the Heroes appeared with it, I think even my father...would probably be killed, so that’s why...I came to destroy the Holy Sword before they could take it.”

“That’s a fully loaded, amazing joke right there. How did you know about the

location of the Holy Sword?”

“It was written inside an ancient book in the archives.”

The girl said, while gesturing to try to convince him that she had searched desperately.

“...Archives? I mean, you did say your father is sick...If there wasn't a Holy Sword that the Heroes could use, wouldn't he still win even if it's a mild illness?”

“No, it's a serious one. Dad says he can only use 50% of his power.”

“Can't he win using 50%? Isn't it fair to treat the Heroes as nothing more than a waste of paper? Who is your father?”

“Umm...he is someone that's called demonic...that is, the Demon King.”

“Oho.”

He felt contempt for her. Even though she thought that he might become hostile, the girl answered while squirming her body around, as if she was having a hard time speaking.

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 3

“For the Demon King to have fallen ill...I mean, is he that weak, that Pops?”

“‘That Pops’ ...you know my father?”

“Wouldn’t everyone know the Demon King? I met him in the past, though it’s not like I care about that sort of thing anymore.”

“N-Not in the least! I have never heard of a human returning alive after meeting my father!”

Kagami couldn’t tell whether she didn’t want to recognize such a person or she was just happy that he had stayed there. She closed in on him, as if she was examining him, while her eyes sparkled happily.

“From the beginning, I hadn’t gone to kill that Pops. I just went to go meet him...like nine years ago? Which reminds me, how old are you? 10 years? Rather, what’s your name?”

“I’m 13, how rude! My name is Alice, Alice Balnesio. What about you?”

“I am Kagami Kouji, 23 years old. Which means...when I went to the Demon King’s Castle, you were there, right?”

Alice shook her head in answer to Kagami’s words.

“Since the Demon King’s Castle was dangerous, I lived in a village away from the Demon King’s Castle...That’s probably why we have never met.”

“Hmm...your Mother?”

“Not here. She passed away when I was born. I lived together with my relative’s aunt.”

Kagami lightly apologized with “My condolences.” It was likely that he was convinced. Since the Demon King was always targeted by humans, it would be dangerous for him to live with other Demons.

“And? Why are you and the Demon King looking for a human like me? Though you’ve already said it, is it because I’ve met with the Demon King once before?”

“I first began to search for a human like Kagami one year ago, but around the same time that my search began, my father fell ill...I didn’t have time for him.”

“At the time that he met me, I didn’t really think about it. It would seem I’m the person you’re looking for...and?”

“I want to walk down the path of coexistence with humans.”

After letting out a big sigh, Kagami started to walk again.

“It’s impossible. Give up.”

He declared just like that, as if to treat her coldly.

“Why!”

“If it’s this person, I’m sure he will comply.” Alice had thought this, so she shouted towards the leaving Kagami with a slightly annoyed look.

“In terms of us getting temporarily married, so fuckin’ what. I would immediately be called a traitor by the Humans. It’s useless as long as you guys have those horns.”

“But! Apart from spawning Monsters...we won’t change anything!”

“That’s the biggest problem.”

Humans hated Monsters. Demons produced Monsters. Even if Demons didn’t do anything, Monsters would attack humans. If that happened, there would be a chain reaction that would make humans hate Demons.

Even if Demons lived far away from Dungeons, there was a respawn point to produce Monsters. Magic emanated from the horns lingered in the air, and even though most of it dissipated naturally, the remains would get absorbed by the respawn point and a Monster would be produced.

“In the beginning, I too had thought that Demons were an existence that had to be defeated without reservation. Even if you understand that you won’t do anything to Humans, it won’t change anything. Humans will still say that ‘They must be defeated.’”

“Is it because...Monsters are produced?”

“Yes. Aren’t there a lot of humans who think that besides me? There are also people who will continue to say that they will beat Demons to death, even after understanding it.”

Alice sat down, losing power after listening to Kagami. It was unexpected. She had thought that if there was a place where Demons and Humans could coexist happily...the life of Demons would no longer be targeted.

When Kagami saw Alice like this, he returned to her side while letting out a sigh, as if he was unable to bear it any more.

“Well, the Demon King might be thinking of some other methods. First, aren’t

there any relatives that can start to figure it out somehow?”

“Relatives? What do you mean by that?”

“It’s about whether or not all of the Demons think about wanting to get along with humans. What about that?”

When she heard Kagami’s words and saw that he had noticed something, Alice looked regretful and bit her lips.

“Right? Due to the history of the long breakdown between humans and Demons, they both hate each other to the extent of wanting to kill. You and the Demon King are rare. Both sides hate each other. If you say things like wanting to coexist with humans, wouldn’t the Demons also treat you as a traitor?”

“Then why doesn’t Kagami look like he’s trying to kill Demons?”

When Alice asked her question, Kagami looked as if he had thought of something and immediately turned around, forcing a moan. “Well—,”

“‘Cause I’m an idiot...”

That was the only thing he muttered. When Alice saw his back, surrounded by an atmosphere of sadness, she didn’t want to question him any further.

Although I don’t understand it well, perhaps this is the belief he holds. It doesn’t matter if Demons get killed, but he won’t kill them. If one looks like they are dying in front of him, he will protect them. The more she thought, the more ambiguous the existence who called himself Kagami became. Alice began to feel slightly attracted to him.

“And? How long will you continue to follow me? We will be arriving at the town soon.”

After about 50 minutes, Kagami, who had declared himself as an idiot, arrived

at the hills that overlooked the huge town of Balman. On the way, Alice had also arrived sneakily, as if he had brought her along.

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 4

“Umm....Well, I have a favor to ask.”

Alice acted as if she planned to stay hidden, only showing her face from behind a tree while muttering as if she was restless.

“In order to cure father’s illness...I want to go buy some medicine.”

“What medicine?”

“Somebody told me that there’s a rumor of the Quest Guild selling Spirit Protection medicine... I want to buy this.”

“That’s ten gold, do you have money?”

“T-Ten gold!?”

Alice, who had no more than 500 Silver, looked shocked when she heard that absurd price.

The Spirit Protection medicine was reasonably priced, considering it’s effects. It was a type of medicine that affected many symptoms, including cold, poison, curse, petrification, vitality, stamina, strength, aging, beautification, and even backaches.

Even if a small fraction of nobles use it, it doesn't matter whether or not they use it once a year, it is still a precious item.

"It's useless. I can't see you holding it."

"Umm... Well, the gold... please lend it to me."

Although Alice said this guiltily, Kagami furrowed his brows with a look on his face that said "What the hell is she saying."

"There aren't villagers who would lend lots of gold to buy the medicine for the Demon King. There's no obligation for me to go that far. It's too bad the Demon King became sick. He's bound to be defeated."

Kagami declared while pointing his index finger at Alice, and Alice's expression darkened.

Seeing her change, Kagami reflected on what he said because saying 'the Demon King is bound to be defeated' to his daughter was too much.

"It's impossible for father to die....If he dies then all of the Demons would be at risk. This isn't just our problem!"

Immediately after, Alice cried while she faced him with pleading eyes.

Seeing this situation, Kagami listened with a troubled expression.

"Now that Father is becoming a target of the Humans with his enormous magic power, although they haven't tried to go look and kill other Demons besides him, if father passes away.....!"

"Ah-...Well, that is true."

Even if Monsters are defeated, they won't all disappear. Since Monsters only spawn through the casted magic of Demons, it's not directly caused by the

Demon King.

If the Demon King who conceals an abnormally huge amount of magic is defeated, perhaps next time humans might start to blame Demons who live in various regions for the cause of non-existent Monsters.

So long as the Demon King, who was said to be too powerful of an opponent, wasn't killed, the other Demons could live without being targeted by humans, even if they didn't want to help him.

And Demons who understand this aren't many. Since the Demon King's Castle is dangerous, putting their residence in a separate location is good proof of it.

"But... Without a doubt this is a problem that will occur sooner or later. The Demon King will die some day. He will be brought to an end some day."

Kagami had understood this. He had left everything up to chance to his understanding. He had given up since it was something that was completely unavoidable.

A Demon's life expectancy isn't everlasting. They grow old and die the same as humans do.

The Demon King is no exception, and even though he is 'the' Demon King, he is only one of the several generations of Demon Kings.

Kagami knew this. And if there were no successors, the overwhelming existence that's known as the Demon King would no longer be in this world.

"I... won't give up. At the very least if he were to be opposed, if there is still a slight chance of hope, I want to cling to it."

Looking at Alice clenching her teeth, Kagami felt faintly nostalgic.

For Alice, perhaps this possibility tied in with her father's life. Kagami had

started to somehow guess her real intention about wanting to walk down the path of coexistence.

"You, do you not detest humans?"

To confirm whether or not this was correct, Kagami asked such a question.

"Even if I resent them nothing will start. 'Cos I'm in the same boat as you."

Listening to these words, Kagami unintentionally slacked his cheeks, spat out his breath, and began to laugh.

"W-Why are you laughing!"

"No....Since you are capable of thinking that way, I remember that the Demon King also tried to aim for the path of coexistence."

"The Demons don't want to lose the Demon King because exposing him is dangerous," a statement that doesn't hold truth. Kagami was convinced as such while listening to Alice.

If the Demon King dies, the Demons will become targeted. Of course if Demons were assassinated without reason, it would probably lead to a war between humans and Demons. He doesn't know how long this peace will continue for. No matter if one side continues till nobody is left, it will lead to war.

Although some of the Demons who were not being targeted no longer wished for war, it would probably begin the moment they lost the Demon King, who was said to be the Great Shield.

"But I think it's impossible to improve the relationship between humans and Demons."

Why did he think so? Because he had already thought about it once before.

Although he had thought about it, reality was cruel and he gave up.

He also thought about other methods, but it was clear that he had to give it up.

However the girl in front of him is not giving it up. Since he had given up once already, she is making an effort to try and make it a reality. And this Demon, had come by herself to such a place like this.

In fact, it's more than Demons hating humans, they are killing humans. and likewise, humans are also killing Demons. It was to ensure the safety on each side.

After all, Alice is thinking that humans and Demons are the same. Since she is thinking about being able to coexist, "we are in the same boat" comes to mind. Kagami had thought as much.

And he had guessed it correctly.

"Even if it's impossible now, I might find a way someday, so I won't give up."

"Sure, I'll try my best without giving it up. If it's medicine you want I'll buy it for you."

That's why Kagami, like himself, had considered supporting this girl until she gave up the possibility of humans and Demons joining hands someday. Because this way seems more interesting to him.

By some chance, he might be aware of something different. He believed in this possibility.

"I-is that fine? But the gold...."

With a sudden change of heart, as Alice suddenly brightened up, Kagami said so as if he were respectfully apologizing.

“Of course you will receive it? Didn’t you say to ‘lend it’ a little while ago? It will be returned right?”

“Y-Yeah! returning around 10 Gold is affordable, because there’s lots of gems inside the castle, it’s fine if I go get it.”

“Well since you will go get it, make it 15 Gold.”

“Eh! Isn’t that increased by 5 Gold?”

“It can’t be helped, otherwise it won’t be worth it. Even if it’s this I’m still giving you a big service aren’t I?”

Although Alice had been surprised by the extraordinary figure, it was in fact a big help to her.

It takes about 10 days to go to the Demon King’s Castle and return back to Balman town. And it’s normal for Kagami to earn about 5 Gold in that amount of time.

“It’s a safe option to escort you along the way to the Demon King’s Castle. C’mon, it’s cheap.”

“Uu..... though father might get mad at me later, it’s fine. Since the gems were left in storage I think it’s fine.”

“Yosh, now that it’s been decided first we need to go to Balman city to buy the medicine, look, hurry it up Alice.”

After Kagami finished saying so, he continued walking towards Balman.

After she had her name called abruptly, Alice, who was staring blankly, immediately smiled as if she were trembling with joy.

“Yeah! Please take care of me, Kagami-san!”

At least Demons, although it's a fact they were called with names by humans, a girl named Alice was the first one who was inspired with hope of that possibility.

Previously, an existence that was said to be a Monster took his father's life, and the 7 year old Kagami at that time bore a grudge against Demons who produce these existences, and hated them for it. From the bottom of his heart he had thought about wanting to kill all of them.

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 5

However, the one he hated the most, to the point of rage, was himself. The reality was that his body was too powerless. If he had been stronger, his father wouldn't have died and he wouldn't have fled by himself, failing his clumsy father.

“Stronger. I want to get stronger...!”

This was his hope, but it had been crushed by possessing the Role of Villager.

The one that killed his father was a Level 34 Monster called a Devil Liger. It had purple, devil-like skin and was a formidable enemy. Its hindlegs acted like a spring, enabling it to pounce with overwhelming speed and strike at its enemies with its sharp fangs. It was something he couldn't compete with even if he struggled against it.

Even though it was necessary to become stronger to defeat this Monster, it was impossible for Villagers who could not become stronger than the wall that was known as Goblins.

He didn't know what to do with the anger rising up inside of him. Why was he born as a Villager? Why IS it a Villager? He had no way to relieve his anger, so Kagami devoted himself to hitting Moss Goblins. At the same time, he became miserable.

Despite how there were Monsters that needed to be defeated, he could not

defeat them. In his misery, he continued defeating weaker Monsters, from the safest of places and by the safest of methods.

He couldn't help feeling frustrated. That's why Kagami challenged Moss Goblins in close combat, with the resolve to die.

Due to his deep hatred against monsters, he refused to give up just because he was an inferior existence.

If he wasn't strong enough to win, he would rather be reborn with a different Role, is what Kagami thought.

The equipment he had bought to defeat Monsters, from the money he had earned until now, was: the Leather armor wrapped around his body, a Buckler held in his left hand, and a sword on his torso that he had never used before. He faced the Moss Goblins with his buckler firmly planted on the ground.

Immediately after, the Buckler was knocked out of his hands. The force of the charge that could not be fully nullified hit Kagami's entire body. He vomited blood and felt massive pain, as if his internal organs had been crushed.

Kagami understood the overwhelming weakness of Villagers once again.

Even though he was at the same Level 4, there was a complete difference in real strength between Moss Goblins and himself.

"...You're fucking kidding me."

Even so, Kagami didn't want to admit it. He didn't want to give up. He was attacked by Moss Goblins again and again as his small body was torn to shreds.

In the end, he exhausted his recovery items and was left semi-conscious, with 10 HP remaining. However, even though one attack was enough to defeat him, Kagami did not give up and defeated the Moss Goblins, turning them into gold.

At this moment, Kagami was wrapped with unspeakable discomfort, causing him to panic. When he opened his Status Window, he shed a single tear.

Even if he defeated Level 4 Moss Goblins, he wouldn't obtain exp, but Kagami's Level had still risen to Level 5. That was when he realized something about this world's system.

【Even if you continue to slay weak enemies, your level won't rise】

【As the name implies, exp is only a numerical value that indicates your combat experience】

【Even if you defeat enemies equal to yourself with the help of a strong person, exp won't be obtained】

【Exp is only given when an enemy is defeated by one who deserves obtainable exp】

There was a loophole in these four rules. No, should it be said that the Roles were created in order to fill this hole?

Exp would not be obtained even if you continued to defeat those of the same Level. This was this world's system, and it was well known. However, there was another way to obtain exp.

One of the exp's system existed within a separate vector, based on the definition of Levels. This was to participate in a higher level battle. However, rather than it being against a higher Level, it referred to the difficulty of combat.

To give a simple example, long range attacks were overwhelmingly strong against Moss Goblins, since they couldn't attack with long range. If one continued to attack them at long range, they wouldn't become a higher level.

When one faced an opponent that was superior in close combat and challenged them at close range, it would be established as a more difficult battle.

Would any Role besides the Villager fight a battle against Monsters of the same Level while limited to a 【Role】's weakness? The answer would probably be no. That was why no one had learned of this system until now.

No one else would fight such an unfavorable battle.

If they fought an unfavorable battle, it would only be against Monsters of a higher level. Forming a party to fight together would compensate for that disadvantage. They would become stronger by getting exp from the Level gap.

For magicians, if they challenged Monsters of the same level with their fists, perhaps they could earn this exp. However, would such a person challenge that kind of disadvantageous battle? Was it worth risking their lives, despite their higher chance of victory when utilizing magic?

It wasn't much of a level up if one became ragged in the first place.

This ragged Role was the overwhelmingly disadvantageous Villager; the Role that was most easily able to gain this exp and also had the highest risk of death.

Although it was expected that the Villager would grow faster than any other Role, it was still a Role that had a high risk of death associated with that growth.

That was the Villager.

"Haha.....hahahahahahaha! Ahahahaha!"

When he noticed this, Kagami laughed gloriously and smiled mischievously.

It had been prepared. The fate of the Villager was set to a path of bloodshed.

It was a new field that had opened up to him because he was a Villager, and it was a great benefit that he could obtain because he was a Villager. Kagami continued to laugh as though he was a broken doll.

“I’ll do it...I’ll kill them. Monsters, Demons too...I’ll kill them all!”

From then on, Kagami continued to fight, risking death every day, to the extent that it could be said that he had lived an implacable life.

He continued to do this every day, as if he was completely obsessed and couldn’t do anything else. He would fight until his HP dropped to 10, fleeing when he was at death’s door, and steadily earned exp.

It was simple. He fought with his life on the line, not caring if he was defeated or not.

He played with opponents who were capable of freezing people by exploiting their fear, even to the extent of losing their life. There wasn’t a single day where Kagami was not near death.

“I did it...finally, I finally did it!”

The day Kagami turned nine, he successfully killed the Monster, Devil Liger, that had killed his father.

Kagami, who was Level 53, made full use of his equipped Dagger and took down the three Devil Ligers surrounding him without dying.

Kagami’s hands trembled and he was joyous enough to cry out. At the same time, he cherished the feeling of hope. If he continued like this, it would not just be Devil Ligers. Surely, even the Demon King would be defeated by him, instead of the Hero. This was what he had begun to think.

That’s right, in the beginning, it was nothing more than revenge for his father. Back then, it was the prologue to the eradication of Demons and Monsters. No longer did Kagami fear death. He would go as far as he could go, and he didn’t care what would become of him later. Yes, these were his thoughts.

However, before he finally took his revenge, he decided to report to his mother, who had always supported him in his reckless endeavors. Kagami

hurried back to the village after defeating the Devil Liger...but he did not arrive at his house. His house was not there.

The village had been reduced to rubble by a bandit attack.

Originally, it was a village in a remote region, far away from the Imperial City. Therefore, there had been no attacks by bandits in the past. Additionally, since the village wasn't wealthy, perhaps they wouldn't have been attacked...and only a select few people could be hired as escorts.

The result was that his mother was killed by humans.

Kagami, who had arrived at the village, sat down on the spot, lacking the energy to do anything. He had focused too much on his training and hadn't thought about the possibility of a situation like this happening. If he was to pass by as a guard, with no equipment or earned money...regrettably, at this late hour, he could only gaze at his mother's corpse, stunned.

The father he respected was killed by Monsters.

The mother he revered was killed by humans.

Staring at his mother's corpse, many thoughts began to swirl around in his head. Why had it become like this? Was it fine for him to be depressed at this? Were there no other methods to avoid this?

Then Kagami remembered the first time he had defeated a Green Slime. It was then that he remembered that he could do something about this. In fact, that was the answer to everything that had happened here.

"I'm...such an idiot."

These were the last words Kagami muttered in that village.

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 6

“Well then, we’ve almost arrived at Balman...Where should we go first, Alice-san?”

A great wall surrounded Balman’s perimeter, and a gate became visible to Alice and Kagami as they approached from the wide forest. Alice immediately walked along the shadows of the trees to stay hidden.

“No, well...I’m a Demon. I’ll be exposed because of the magic my horns release if I enter. That’s why I’ll wait here until Kagami-san buys the medicine.”

Alice said with a dry smile, as if she was slightly hesitant.

“Are you an idiot? Isn’t that like you’re declaring ‘Please find me hiding in front of the town and kill me’? If this was going to be the case, I would have left you behind when I said that I would go buy the medicine.”

“But, there’s no other way...”

“Don’t make such a gloomy face. Besides, since I plan to return home and rest first, I can’t leave you alone outside, can I?”

Kagami began to rummage around inside the bag that was hanging over his shoulders, searching for something.

After a while, he muttered “Ah, I’ve got it” and removed a white cloth that looked like a slender bandage. He moved over to Alice’s hiding spot in a tree’s shadow.

“Kagami-san...what is this?”

“Don’t worry about it. Remove your hood and turn your head towards me.”

“Eh, eh? L-like this?”

Alice removed her hood with a dubious face. Kagami coiled the bandage around her horns, tying a tight ribbon around each one.

“Good! The horns’ shape doesn’t really stand out, since they decline downwards. Well, since it’s going to be an ornament used to deceive people, I’ll buy you a ribbon later.”

“It can’t be helped, but wrapping them like that...The way the cloak has been torn still...Huh?”

Alice became aware of her discomfort as she was talking. She no longer felt the magic that normally emanated from her horns. She confirmed that the horns were still there by touching them with her hands.

“Kagami-san, what is the meaning of this?”

“Magic.”

“Geez, answer me seriously! If you have such an item, even the co-existence of Demons and humans...!”

“It’s impossible. Although I think you’ve already noticed it, this isn’t 『Magic Suppression』. It’s a special cloth that 『changes magic into a different substance』. I made it.”

Kagami said, before starting to walk briskly towards Balman. The panicked Alice quickly followed him.

A Demon's horn was a part of their body that emitted magic. It existed in order to stop magic from overflowing within their bodies.

For example, after the Blue Devil's horn is placed in a container that can store it, the emitted magic temporarily stays in that spot...but magic power still builds up inside the Demon's body, which can cause abnormal status.

"That's why I said that it's useless. There simply isn't enough raw materials for it. It's a miracle that I even found them."

When Alice heard this, she felt dejected.

"Then, at least tell me exactly what this is."

"N-...? Monsters absorb magic and then release it, right? Then, do you know the origin of that existence? Those guys that are known as Spawn Blockers."

"Yeah, I know."

"About that, no matter how many times you locate and destroy those Blockers, the magic isn't completely destroyed when it's released inside the Dungeon...I found this material the moment they released their magic. When their magic gets absorbed, it becomes a strange material that won't release magic, no matter what the Monster is."

"It doesn't lose its efficiency?"

Originally, Spawn Blockers who produced monsters lost this efficiency with their destruction and just turned into stone. However, since the Spawn Blockers released their magic when they got destroyed, humans had already given up on the possibility of destroying them.

“Yeah. Those are super S-rank materials no one knows about. I found them by accident.”

“So this was made by kneading them into a cloth material? Shouldn’t you cherish it? It’s the only one in the whole world.”

Alice was slightly worried about what to do. Meanwhile, Kagami, having seen the cloth taken out after such a long time, reminisced about the feelings of finding it for the first time.

It was a cherished feeling that Kagami found. It wasn’t something he found great joy in, but it was a normal doubt for anyone who had thought...

【What...are Monsters?】

“Hey, Kagami-san. Why did you think to try to make this cloth? This is made to easily fit a Demon’s horns, isn’t it?”

“Hmm? Ah, it was just a long time ago.”

When Alice saw Kagami look slightly irritated and scratch his head, she unintentionally let out a laugh. This person might have also aimed for the same world that she did. No, she was confident that this person would surely try to do so. She smiled and continued to walk behind Kagami until they arrived at Balman.

“A...a...amazingggggg!”

When they arrived at Balman, Alice was astonished and cried out exuberantly with sparkling eyes.

Countless adventurers were often present inside the town and you could see people buying things from open vendors. Tavern workers and owners were out shopping in various places, as well as arranging the goods that they had made.

There were numerous houses covered in bricks or made from wood, wide passages paved in stone, and various Adventurers making speeches at the Square. All of this was new to Alice.

Alice might have been the first Demon to set foot inside of Balman.

“Cheappp! Just for today, we have Humuhumunukunukuāpuaa! 440 Bronze!”

“Cheap! Cheap cheap! Cheap! Cheap! Cheap! Welcome, welcome, it’s cheap!”

“Sea Urchins and Salmon Roe here! 1 Silver!”

“You sure are cute! Won’t you try one of my apples?”

Kagami ignored everything and walked swiftly. Alice looked about restlessly, observing each and every product that she saw as if everything was new to her.

“Hey, be careful!”

“Au, I’m sorry.”

Along the way, Alice collided with an Adventurer who was passing by. Although she seemed like she was pouting while apologizing, the Adventurer didn’t say anything else and walked away.

Although, if he had realized that she was a demon, Alice would have been faced with extremely hostile behavior. That being said, Humans wouldn’t attack you just because you were rumored to be a Demon. They had conversed like equals, which caused an indescribable feeling to run through her. By the time she noticed, Kagami had jumped in joy.

“Kagami-san, where do we go from here?”

“Hmm? I will go buy the medicine by myself later, so first we will secure an inn to sleep at today. I plan to go call a friend to come join us on this trip.”

Kagami answered without hesitation and made Alice anxious.

“Eh...it won't just be Kagami-san and me going?”

“Isn't it obvious? You don't understand. I'm fine by myself, but since you're here as well, I want someone to stand next to you if I have to fight.”

“B-but...it would be bad if I were to be found out, and isn't it useless for you to worry about me getting attacked by Monsters?”

“It's not necessarily just Monsters who will come and attack you.”

When Alice saw Kagami's sad expression, she couldn't say anything else.

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 7

“Look, don’t make such a worried face. That guy isn’t bad, I guarantee it.”

Alice followed the calm Kagami as they headed directly towards the inn. After securing a room, Kagami left Alice and went to go search for this person that he relied on.

//

“You’re slow...Kagami-san.”

Alice waited inside the room for about two hours. The room was the length of roughly ten tatami mats, which contained two beds, a table, and chairs placed to allow a view of the whole town from the window.

Although she had considered going outside, that would definitely make Kagami worry, so she sat on the bed to fool around and kill some time while watching the town from the window.

Nevertheless, it was definitely boring to wait in the room for two hours without doing anything. After adapting to a lifestyle of sleeping out in the open during her journey from the Demon village to the Ancient Cave, it would undoubtedly be impossible to sleep in a bed. She would simply feel uncomfortable.

“Oi! Are you awake? Open the door for me!”

Just as she started to feel slightly uneasy, she heard the sound of the three knocks alongside Kagami's voice coming from the entrance.

Alice's expression lit up while she jumped out of the bed and went to the door.

"Welcome back, Kagami-san! I'll open it now!"

Alice turned the key above the door knob counterclockwise enthusiastically and opened the door vigorously.

Then she immediately shut the door and locked it.

The moment the door was opened, Alice became expressionless. She thought that she had seen Kagami standing in front of the door, but there had been someone else behind him. It was a large, muscular man who had hair woven in braids, with a height that was 1.2 times taller than Kagami, he wore a pink dougi and resembled a bear.

"O-i, Alice, it's me, Kagami. I said to open the door for me."

The voice she heard was definitely Kagami. Since he had called his name, she decided to properly confirm his identity and once again began to slowly open the shut door.

"It's Araya...How cute!"

Alice froze in fear from the impact of the person behind Kagami.

The man's build appeared like a body that's been born to fight. He had a rugged face with a cleft chin, which was separated into two with applied makeup, and apparently applied a moisturizing agent like lip balm on his cod lips. When Alice saw this figure, she selected the command to flee in her head, but there was no path to escape.

(TN: Cod lips means the lips are very big. Stung-by-a-bee kind of big)

The pink dougi made one think that this man's appearance belonged to THAT group of people. He was just a completely dangerous fellow with that amount of hardened, ripped muscles.

(TN: The joke is he looks gay)

“Cho, Takako-chan. You're scaring her so go in first.”

When Alice looked past the large man, she finally saw Kagami and her heart immediately became calm.

“Geez...I'm not scary though~? Young lady, I'm friendly, alright~?”

Kagami felt his appearance lacked any credibility. Alice, who had nearly collapsed in fear, collected herself and closed the door after the large man wearing the pink dougi entered the room.

“Yoisho, look, I went and bought the medicine. I'll hold onto it so you don't lose it.”

Kagami muttered to Alice soon after he entered the room. He placed the large rucksack on his shoulders next to the window. He had probably been preparing for the journey.

He then took something that looked like a tea set from the rucksack and prepared a flask with a drink that smelled like black tea. The large man sat in a chair and began to drink elegantly.

“U...umm, Kagami-san? The friend you talked about, is that...this person?”

Alice, who had watched the actions of the two people with a stupefied look, timidly asked Kagami a question.

“Hmm? Yeah? This person is the most reliable Level 124 Monk, Takako-chan.”

Alice was still surprised when she heard that the person was level 124 since their appearance wasn't unique enough for others to expect such a number

Alice believed that he was a Monk, but it was unexpected for Kagami to say that he was the most reliable one.

“Are you listening, Alice-chan? Geez, you really are cute...Want to eat something?”

Alice quickly moved and hid behind Kagami's back without changing her expression.

“I said that you're scaring her. Takako is a good person who is willing to be our ally without any issues, even after knowing that you are a Demon.”

“Eh...! Even though you know I'm a Demon...you aren't scared?”

Alice softened her expression, surprised at Kagami's unexpected remark.

Oddly enough, she felt a sense of affinity with the monk, who wasn't hostile to her even though he knew that she was a Demon.

“I still haven't introduced myself. I'm Takako Vildar. As Kagami-chan said earlier, I'm a Monk. I won't ever attack you just because you're a Demon, so you don't need to worry.”

“W-Why? Aren't demons a hindrance?”

“Alice-chan is a cute-looking child, and that makes you safe~...Besides, neither Demons nor humans have any relations to me.”

“I too was able to slay Demons in the past, but one time, a long time ago, I exhausted all of my healing medicine and a Demon ended up saving my life...Ever

since then, I've noticed that Demons and Humans aren't different."

Alice widened her eyes and glanced at Kagami and Takako in turns.

"U-Um! I want you to cooperate with me! I want to build a friendly relationship with humans!"

"That's impossible~. It's something you cannot understand. After all, Demons won't stop harming humans. Therefore, I became tired of fighting and now manage Club Gachi Muchi, which lets retired Adventurers enjoy their lives in this town. I'm living a carefree life, no?"

It was during such circumstances when he met Kagami, who had unexpectedly come to play at her bar. He clicked with him and, together with other retired Adventurers, enjoyed quests searching for treasure together. Takako let out a deep sigh.

"I was glad when Kagami came, since he couldn't come to play recently... However, this unexpected business of wanting to escort a Demon was surprising! If it's a favor from Kagami, there's no way I could refuse it, you know."

"But Takako-chan, you rarely manage the bar anymore."

"Isn't it fine if you come to the Club? You can sell things that way."

"No way. I never want to go to such a horrible place again."

When she saw the exchange between the two, Alice's wariness towards Takako gradually faded away.

"Umm...I'm sorry. In the beginning, it was surprisingly strange."

"Ara! Proper etiquette? It's fine? Such an appearance...is not overly surprising?"

“I’m in your care, Takako-san!”

Alice bowed to show her sincerity.

“It’s fine? Ah that’s right! Alice-chan has always slept out in the open, right? Don’t you want to take a bath? Shall we go to this city’s hot springs? It’s a good place where there aren’t that many people.”

Alice became excited. Since she had always lived outdoors, she never took any baths.

Although, no matter how many times one bathed, they couldn’t forget the feeling of soaking in warm water.

“Y-Yeah! I want to go! Let Kagami-san go too!”

“If you want to go, then you two should go. Males and females are separated so there is no meaning in going together, right?”

“...Eh? Takako-san will be together with you, right?”

“What the hell are you saying? Takako-chan is a woman.”

At that moment, the vigorous Alice interrupted her thoughts, thinking “Amazing, Kagami-san, to use such magic to stop time!”

“Well...eh? That, like Kagami-san...Takako-san is also big?”

Certainly, she was wearing makeup and a pink dougi. However, no matter what Alice thought, her body was much larger than a normal woman’s.

“But, I’m a woman.”

A chest that tightened with muscles, as if it were an iron plate.

She only had to stand for one to see that her muscles had been forged from training overwhelmingly. It was an appearance that would make one think that it wouldn't be strange even if she crushed a rock. She was more manly than anyone else.

But she was a woman.

She had arms and legs as thick as logs, along with the appearance of a ferocious bear, and was the Level 124 owner of the Club Gachi Muchi in Balman.

But she was a woman.

“W-w-w-wait a moment! Well, Takako-san has no chest!”

“Takako-chan's breasts changed into muscle by burning all of her fat.”

Kagami sorted his luggage as he responded, as if he were used to it.

“Geez! Kagami-chan! Don't you know how to properly choose your words?”

“Haha, stop being so serious Takako-chan. My health is decreasing, right?”

In response to the rude remark, Takako-chan aimed a Low Kick at the back of Kagami's neck with her log-like legs. A fierce sound rang out when she kicked, lightly shaking the ground.

Although it was impressive that Kagami was enduring it, Alice couldn't hide her surprise at Takako-san, who had unleashed such a Low Kick. She was...a woman? Alice doubted it expressionlessly.

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 8

“Umm, even though Kagami-san is Level 999, you still took damage from Takako-san?”

When she saw Kagami’s complexion worsening, Alice suddenly wondered about that. Although Kagami was obviously strong, being at Level 999, she didn’t know if there was enough of a gap compared to Takako, who had the talented Role of the Monk.

“Well, even if I am Level 999, since the Villager is the weakest amongst the Roles, the gap is about three times as much. Otherwise, I think it’s around 1.5 times? If a Villager wants to win against Takako-chan’s power, they need to be at least Level 372.”

Kagami, whose complexion had worsened from taking damage earlier, responded in a cool manner.

“But even so, Kagami’s strength is still overwhelmingly powerful, right? Was being hurt a joke?”

“No. My HP steadily dropped. Look, when you become Level 100, don’t you get an exclusive Race Skill? Takako-san’s skill is especially dangerous.”

Alice was puzzled when she heard this. Demons, who were unlike Humans, weren’t well acquainted with Levels, so Kagami began to explain the Level system step by step.

Upon reaching Level 100, an unknown, exclusive skill was assigned according to a person's Role, Personality, Character, and their Fundamentals. Since the Skills were apparently determined by a person's Role, people came to the conclusion that your Role was the primary factor for what was received.

The difference in ability between a Level 99 and a Level 100 Human is immense. When Rex was gathering his party, he had wanted them to be Level 100 because of this.

Furthermore, he knew an exclusive Race Skill was assigned every hundred levels gained. This is why the Level 253 Hero, who called himself 'The Accomplisher' is said to be a Legend.

The Demon King, who was stronger than Heroes, also had two exclusive Skills.

It's the skill 【Penetrating Shock of Destruction】and to put it simply, it allowed one to ignore an opponent's defense.

"Takako-chan releases an all-out attack, dealing her maximum amount of damage. It's an abnormal skill."

Wasn't that a ghost-like attack, which ignored physical attributes? Kagami rose after he finished arranging the luggage.

"So what if it's an abnormal skill? Doesn't Kagami-chan have plenty of them?"

"Is that so? Kagami-san also has exclusive Skills...Huh? Isn't it nine, since you're level 999!?"

Alice was startled and opened her eyes widely as she thought about the amazing power of having nine Skills, having heard about Takako's abnormal Skill.

"No, it's at least ten Skills. When I became Level 999, it increased by one."

“Eh? But didn’t you say earlier that one is obtained every 100 Levels?”

“It’s probably because there hasn’t been anyone who reached Level 999 until now. The limit is Level 999, since the exp bar disappears so you can’t get past it.”

Kagami muttered with an unhappy expression. Alice couldn’t comprehend his thoughts behind his expression. Perhaps he still desired more power? It didn’t appear to be that way. People who thought of finding more power after reaching Level 999 didn’t exist.

If that was the case, Alice had to wonder “Why does this person show that expression occasionally?” A slight pain appeared in Alice’s chest, since she couldn’t completely understand what Kagami was feeling.

“Doesn’t Alice think that having ten Skills is weird enough? Look, isn’t he already fine, even though he was kicked like that earlier?”

“Umm, what kind of Skills does Kagami-san have?”

“It doesn’t mean that I know everything about the skills that were given to me. One looks like an automatic recovery skill and is called 【Auto Revive】. See, even though I was kicked like that, I’m still alive and well.”

Alice and Takako glanced at Kagami, who looked towards the mirror as if he was set on it.

Even if he was Level 999, suitable hardships would normally be required to overlook the damage he had taken, and it would have been difficult. Kagami’s Skill 【Auto Revive】, which healed any amount of damage his opponents dealt, was definitely abnormal, but that was because he had reached Level 999.

It was thanks to this Skill he had obtained at Level 100 that Kagami had managed to become Level 999 at a young age.

“Wouldn’t these Skills make others jealous if they are revealed?”

“Isn’t it fine? It can’t be changed anyways. Please show me your Status Window occasionally. Why are you being stubborn and hiding it?”

“ ‘Cause it’s a secret rule.”

Kagami replied as he showed off his Status Window, which only displayed his Role and Level. Seeing this, Takako sighed.

“Whatever. Even though I’m concerned about it, since Kagami-chan is like that, perhaps there is something he doesn’t want us to know about. Alice-chan, let’s go to the bath.”

“A-Alright...”

Alice saw Kagami’s displeased expression, as if he were slightly troubled, and stopped listening. When Kagami looked far off into the distance at times, he had a lonely look on his face, as if he were sad. What exactly did he know about going to that area? Alice left the room while worrying about it.

Even though Takako confirmed the bath selection before leaving the room, Alice didn’t realize it until it was too late. She couldn’t escape anymore.

Alice, who gave up halfway and prepared for the worst, splendidly passed through the streets of Balman under Takako’s guidance and headed towards the hot springs. The cheerful Takako was strangely scary.

“Ara? Why such a pale face? Hmph, it’s ok, ‘cause I’m letting you follow me.”

“Ah...no, that...yes. Thank you very much.”

“Or, I wonder if it can’t be helped but to feel sad at times, since Kagami-chan won’t show you his Status Window?”

Alice changed her seemingly sad expression.

Although she thought that the primary reason for his coldness was a tragedy that had occurred in his past, she was still unfamiliar with Kagami.

It was troubling for her to be called by her given name for the first time, as well as seeing humans worry about her.

“Even though he is usually blissfully ignorant, Kagami-chan makes a distressed face when it comes to his Status.”

“Does it have something to do with Kagami-san’s past?”

“Although his lifestyle of defeating Monsters and obtaining gold hasn’t changed at all, he started having that distressed expression when he became Level 999. When I met that child, he was about Level 930 and he had shown me his Status Window back then.”

She added “Since I, too, was a normal Bar Owner at that time, I had never shown off such Skills,” as she shook her head and pouted.

“...How did Kagami-san reach Level 999, exactly? Nobody could even reach the area of Level 300, and to go beyond Level 999 is...”

If Kagami knew how, anyone would wonder about it, and Alice was the first one to ask this question. She hadn’t been listening anyways, when Kagami was near.

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 9

Even if she tried to listen, Kagami definitely would not tell her. Rather than being strangely deceptive, he'd just wear a troubled expression. Since she intuitively knew this, she didn't dare ask.

“There aren't any monsters that are beyond Level 500 in the world.”

Alice stopped and muttered in a small voice.

No matter how much one struggled, Alice was certain that it was impossible to reach that Level. She knew the existence of the strongest monster because Demons coexisted with Monsters. It was not likely for one to return alive if they met it, and it was impossible to flee if they got lost in its territory.

“Surely, one cannot go beyond Level 500. Yet...Kagami reached Level 999.”

“But he knew from the beginning that the strongest monsters are Level 500. Also, it's fine to not worry about your father's life being targeted by another Level 999 person, since another person like Kagami is unlikely to appear.”

Takako said to Alice, who was genuinely worried about the method of reaching Level 999, with a gentle smile.

“It's probably impossible for anyone other than Kagami-chan.”

“Why do you think so?”

“Because for him, every single life is important...I wonder if that makes him the most idiotic person alive?”

Takako began to laugh like a man and added “Hahaha, idiot.”

“Besides, isn’t that something you will eventually come to know from now on? Since we just met, if you feel that you truly wish to get along with us, it would be better to keep your curiosity reigned in.”

Alice slightly reflected on it and lowered her face with a shunned look.

When Takako saw this, she impulsively wanted to hug Alice. She had hugged cute things impulsively in public before, and since it still hadn’t caused a problem, she responded as such.

“Well, I’ll teach you a special method to becoming Level 999! The exp value is still obtained, even if you are at a higher Level. Kagami-chan verified this already.”

“Higher Level?”

“Even if you’re at a higher Level, if your opponent’s abilities are greater than yours, you will get exp. This isn’t normally the case, but since he has the weakest Role of Villager, he can gain exp.”

Alice couldn’t help but feel even more skeptical when she heard this. Since Villagers were weak, she knew that even if he was fighting a Level 500 Monster at Level 900, he would barely win.

Learning about the existence of Skills convinced Alice even more. The more she thought about it, the more she couldn’t help but wonder about the existence that called himself Kagami.

“I, too, don’t know about that. But it’s fine. Whether it’s the past or the present, Kagami-chan is a friendly person who doesn’t change. That’s why, shouldn’t Alice-chan also be at ease?”

Alice, who had been gloomy about various things, brightened at Takako’s words.

She couldn’t ask too many questions, and even though they had just met, Kagami was friendly. Alice wanted to know more. It was fine if she started learning from now. There was no rush, and they would at least start traveling together.

“And since I’m here, Alice-chan should also feel more at ease.”

Alice began to overflow with various feelings when Takako said so.

“I...it’s not like I didn’t want to go to the hot springs anymore. I just began to think a little, that’s all.”

“It’s impossible for a girl to be so sweaty! Even if it’s Kagami-chan, I won’t forgive him!”

Takako’s giant body closed in on Alice and pointed at her as she said so. Alice’s heart paled in the face of such force, and she naturally laughed as if she had given up.

“Here we go!...To the hot springs!”

Takako forcibly grabbed Alice’s hand and pointed towards the direction of the hot springs. Immediately after, a giant, violet object fell down in that direction, making a loud “~Dozun”.

“...Huh?”

This height, perhaps it was four times as tall as Takako?

Since it had, by chance, fallen in the largest area in Balman's town square when nobody was around, there wasn't anyone under it. Otherwise, it would have pinned anyone underneath it.

Alice was convinced of this when she saw the ground's paved stone that had been crushed from its fall and gasped.

"Guru.....Gururu.....Guru.....Gurufuu....."

The monster raised a spine-chilling growl and slowly began to move, emitting a yellow glint from its eyes. Its two front legs sank into the ground with a "~zun". It then placed its two hind legs in the same manner and pulverized the ground, as if it was getting ready for a charge.

"You're in the way."

"Guru.....Ruo!? Buruooooooooo!?"

However, the Bloody Buffer, which had come flying from the sky, immediately received a roundhouse kick to its body from Takako and was sent flying into the horizon at an amazing speed. It made a loud sound as it collided with the Square's wall of bricks and disappeared, changing into Gold.

"Come, Alice-chan! Let's go to the hot springs!"

"Oh, no, please wait a moment. Amazing, it's my first time being bewildered like this."

Takako, who didn't appear to be sensitive to anything and immediately tried to go to the hot springs after slaying a Monster that fell from the sky with a sudden roundhouse kick, made Alice dizzy. When they surveyed their surroundings, they realized that there were more Bloody Buffers falling from the sky, one after another.

Why were they still calmly trying to go to the hot springs in such a situation?

Alice was rather afraid of this.

“Ara. Quite a lot of them have fallen. Although it’s fine even if they fall on my shop.”

“Takako-san, now is not the time to be calm!”

In fact, the situation had turned into an uproar and screams rang throughout Balman.

Why had Bloody Buffers fallen from the sky? When Alice and Takako raised their heads to look for the cause, about ten giant, black-winged monster birds descended on the town.

“Did those monster birds bring those Bloody Buffers? Why, exactly?”

“Calm down, Alice-chan. Even though everyone is making a racket, it’s fine. This is an Adventurer’s Town, after all.”

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 10

Takako said in a calm manner.

When they surveyed their chaotic surroundings, they saw that the confused Adventurers, who were crying and shouting at the same time, were slowly beginning to fight the Bloody Buffers.

It had certainly been surprising for monsters to suddenly fall from the sky, but everyone seemed to be dealing with it without any particular problems. It didn't look like it would take them very long to completely suppress this level of damage.

“Kukuku...fuhahaha! Not bad, humans! Even though you are at peace now... today is just a test! It's a declaration of war...the Demon King Army will control the humans!”

Immediately after, a voice resounded inside them, as if it were speaking directly into their minds.

Alice and Takako immediately looked towards the birds that were flocking in the sky. The birds all seemed to be looking down, and they could see a Demon with two horns standing at the front.

“Ara...Could he be your father?”

“No...Father isn't that young, and he doesn't have silver hair. But, why is he

using the Demon King's name in such a place?"

When Takako checked, with a slightly troubled look, Alice hastily denied it.

However, Alice couldn't hide her look of confusion. It was possible that they were just using the Demon King's name, but they had unquestionably declared war against the humans.

"Fear us, humans...! Demon King-sama has finally begun to act in order to destroy Humanity. In both his name and in reality, you guys will be controlled... for all of eternity!"

Kagami's POV

"So...hungry. There's so much free time. Hurry up and come back."

After Takako and Alice left, Kagami laid down on top of the bed, since he had nothing to do. Whether or not it was good to sleep early after eating, he deeply regretted not going to the bath together with them. However, since Balman was always crowded, regardless of the time of day, it seemed too troublesome to walk out right now, even if it was the middle of the night. It would be annoying if he passed by Takako and Alice, so Kagami was waiting on standby.

"As always, it seems like they are having fun. As expected of Balman, cows are even falling from the sky."

Kagami laughed lightly as he looked outside of the window. Cows were rapidly coming down from the sky to wave at him. He couldn't help making a retort when such an event was happening.

"If you are showing me this, then today's dinner will be black beef...No, it will be something less expensive, since Alice is here...But she most likely hasn't tried it before, so black beef it is..."

Kagami immediately understood that the the Monsters that were falling were Bloody Buffers. He thought it was amusing because such low Level Monsters

were falling into a town where Adventurers gathered.

He initially thought that Takako had thrown them around as they fell, since her class was Monk, but he immediately changed his mind.

“Gururu.....ruooooo!”

“Eh? This is extremely annoying.”

A Bloody Buffer broke through the ceiling and fell into the room, landing right next to Kagami’s bed.

“Eh-...I wonder what the repair cost will be.”

Kagami looked up at the sky, more concerned about the condition of the broken ceiling than the Bloody Buffer that had fallen in front of him, and noticed the black Monster birds which had dropped the Bloody Buffers. As they flew about and filled the sky, Kagami frowned.

“It doesn’t look like Takako-chan threw them...Did those Monsters do this?”

Black monster birds were fluttering around in the sky. From what Kagami knew, they only appeared in groups. They were only Level 138 Monsters that flew around the Demon King’s castle, the Hell Crows.

Why were they flying about in a flock at such a place? They were even cooperating with fellow Monsters who originally inhabited different areas. Although there were various other thoughts that Kagami initially had,

“It’s a flying piggybank!”

Is what he quickly thought of them as.

Since Hell Crows were able to fly around in the sky, they rarely came down to the ground. He had to come up with a strategy to defeat them. They were

monsters that Kagami did not encounter often.

However, Hell Crows liked to eat shiny gems as food, and since they were stored inside their body, you could earn a large amount of gold if you defeated them. They were Rare Monsters whose dropped Items were gems.

“I-I hate it! One, two, three, four, five, six...every single one of them is plump!”

Kagami’s thoughts immediately switched to figuring out how to defeat the Hell Crows, who were flying in the sky. He didn’t care about the ceiling’s repair cost anymore because it would be fine if he paid with the gold from defeating the Hell Crows.

He actually started to feel grateful for the Hell Crows and Bloody Buffers that had come to attack in flocks.

“Kukuku...fuhahaha! Not bad, humans! Even though you are at peace now... today is just a test! It’s a declaration of war...the Demon King Army will control the humans!”

A voice resounded inside Kagami’s mind.

“Fear us, humans...! Demon King-sama has finally begun to act in order to destroy Humanity. In both his name and in reality, you guys will be controlled... for all of eternity!”

“What the hell is that guy saying.”

Kagami said hatefully in response to the voice he suddenly heard. He knew the existence that was called the Demon King. Incidentally, he also knew his daughter. It was precisely because of this that he knew that the owner of this voice...was probably just a Demon. He understood that the Demon was selfishly twisting the intentions of another, which angered him a little.

“Gururururuoooooo! Guruooooooo!”

When the Bloody Buffers let out a war cry, as if they were announcing their existence, Kagami looked at them.

“Just about right.”

“Guruo? Guru...!?”

Kagami grabbed one of the horns extending from the Bloody Buffer with one hand, lightly lifted it up while supporting its giant body, and flung it into the sky with full force.

Larger than a cannonball, the Bloody Buffer flew in a straight line towards the sky and collided with the flock of Hell Crows before changing into gold.

The Hell Crow that received a direct blow from the Bloody Buffer changed into a large amount of gold and gems, which scattered into the air.

“Shit! There’s a possibility of other guys picking that up!”

After saying that, since there weren’t any fleeing children in the vicinity, Kagami jumped out of the broken ceiling. After he found the Bloody Buffer he flung into the sky, he began to search for Takako.

“.....Eh?”

The Demon who was standing on top of the Hell Crow in the sky could not understand what had happened to the Hell Crow that was killed and wore a puzzled expression, with snot running down his nose.

Kagami POV End

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 11

The town was wrapped in the strange sight of Bloody Buffers flying back up into the sky one by one. It looked like the cows had done their best to stand on the ground, but had been pulled back up by the force of God and flew into the sky. The scene later became famous in the town.

“Takako-san, the Bloody Buffers are flying into the sky, one after another... what’s happening?”

“Kagami-chan is probably the only one who could do such things. Even if I’m in my best condition, I don’t think I could reach those birds flying in the sky. Only he is able to fling them so high.”

Alice listened to this while staring at the Monster standing next to her with her mouth wide open. Takako, on the other hand, had an exhilarated look as she watched the Bloody Buffers and the Monster Birds falling one after another.

“But, as expected of Kagami-chan. It feels good to send them flying. It seems like he immediately understood what was happening. Let’s go, Alice-chan.”

Takako began to walk towards where the Bloody Buffers were flying into the sky. Alice nodded in agreement and chased after her.

When they checked the town’s state as they ran by, they saw that the townsfolk had already escaped from the confusing situation. Half of them were in a festive mood, while the other half was shouting in anger towards the

Demons.

Those who were treating the event like a festival were drinking sake while watching the Bloody Buffers fly into the air. They also shouted and cheered as they watched the adventurers fight the Bloody Buffers that were rampaging nearby.

However, the town wasn't undamaged and few were joyful about the Bloody Buffers. Some had suffered injuries, while others had their homes destroyed. They glared at the flocking Monster Birds with a desire for vengeance.

When she saw this, Alice's expression became clouded. She had the feeling that she might be blamed for trying to cause a reconciliation between Demons and Humans.

Takako tried to cheer her up by saying "It's not the first time this has happened", and thought about the long road ahead of her. Although she had hoped that they would cooperate, it was clear that the people standing there would be opposed to the idea.

"Adventurers! Now is the time to stand up! As if we will fall to the hands of the Bloody Buffers! Let's join forces, defeat all the Monsters, and let those who oppose us know of Humanity's power!"

"Uoooooooooh!"

Adventurers aimed for the subjugation of the Demon King by defeating Monsters, and the party who stood in front of them, at the vanguard, had delivered a speech before the nearly-dead Bloody Buffers.

Rex pierced a Bloody Buffer with his sword. Krul stood beside him, wearing a serious look, and Tina hid behind them in embarrassment, while Palna yawned as if annoyed.

"Behold! There is no way other Roles could use this sword technique! The power of this technique does not just fling them!"

Rex pulled his sword out of the Bloody Buffer and let out a loud cry towards the heavens.

The Bloody Buffer changed into gold just as a flash of light poured onto Rex and the sky darkened with clouds.

The light that poured onto Rex spit out electricity, causing a small shockwave to hit its surroundings, and wrapped around the blade of Rex's sword.

Then he positioned himself as if he had sheathed his blade and slowly began to move his sword.

「Holy Thunder・Furious Beheading Wave！」(TN:「聖雷・剛烈波斬！」)

Rex swung his sword towards the sky while calling out the Skill's name, even though he didn't need to say it. A powerful body of light flew out, as if detached from the sword, and traveled straight towards the Hell Crows with tremendous speed, forming of a blade of light.

The blade of light hit one of the Hell Crows, piercing it, and released an electric shock that was strong enough to burn it to a crisp.

The Hell Crow changed into gold coins and gems before the electric shock had finished discharging, so the gold coins and gems were zapped into dust.

“See that! Just from my strength alone, those formidable, flapping Monsters in the sky are irrelevant! It's not enough to scare us if they are only attacking!”

Rex returned his sword to its sheath as sweat dripped down his forehead. Though it was natural for him to be strong, since he was a Hero, he was able to defeat a high level Monster in a single blow. Alice gave him a respectful look and gasped, “Amazing...as expected of a Hero.”

“A-are you fine, Hero-sama? It seems like your body received that lightning strike?”

Krul immediately ran over after seeing the weakened Rex stagger due to using his skill just now.

“...I’m fine, but...since I used a large portion of my power, I can only cast it twice. We won’t let the Demon King Army pose a threat to Humans, even if we don’t have power.”

Rex said with a fatigued look. Krul nodded in silence and gathered the attention of the surrounding Adventurers.

“Please hear me out, everyone. Surely, a Hero’s strength is tremendous, but it’s not infinite! Everyone’s cooperation is essential to show the power of humanity to the Demon King Army...Please lend us your power, in the name of the Hero!”

“Uoooooh! Let’s do ittt!”

With Krul’s encouragement, the Adventurers’ morale was boosted and they raised their weapons one after another.

“Hero-sama...are you okay? I’ll treat you n-now!”

Meanwhile, Tina and Palna approached the exhausted Rex and Tina handed over a potion to heal his stamina. Palna looked surprised as she praised the greatness of his Holy Thunder ▪ Furious Beheading Wave.

“This flow is a bit bad.”

Takako muttered while sighing. Alice couldn’t understand what made the flow bad. She had considered the various risks of massing them together to take them out in one fell swoop, but it wasn’t really a situation that one could call ‘bad’. She looked at the Demons in the sky and tilted her head, unable to understand.

“Everyone, it’s important to coordinate your timing! Not only are the opponents flying in the sky, they are high Level Monsters. Unlike Hero-sama, I do

not think we will defeat them in one blow.”

As Alice was pondering Takako’s words, Krul issued instructions to the gathered Adventurers. Along with Rex, they prepared to cast a skill that allowed long-range attacks. Those who could not help took out Bows and Crossbows, while those who could use magic began to chant.

“Hmm?”

Takako lost her troubled look and smiled while raising her voice, as if her chance had come.

Although Alice didn’t know what the tall Takako had seen, it didn’t seem to be related to the Adventurers in front of her.

“Now! All out attack!”

On Krul’s command, all of the Adventurer’s attacks shot out simultaneously.

“Takako-chan! I leave it to you!”

“Please leave it to me!”

Almost at the same time, a man’s voice echoed, calling Takako. In response, Takako jumped into the sky, causing an exploding sound to resound.

In the next moment, the scene came into her view. Two Bloody Buffers suddenly flew out next to each other and prevented most of the Adventurer’s attacks.

The two Bloody Buffers were pierced with arrows and crossbow bolts, protecting the flying Monsters. Takako, who had flown up into the air ahead of time, drop kicked the Bloody Buffers into the ground.

The Bloody Buffers that were drop kicked naturally died and their bodies

changed into gold.

“Hey, hey...give me a break. Even though it took great pains to ensure four of them...don’t be unreasonable.”

What on earth had happened? Confused, most of the Adventurers there heard the voice and looked towards the direction that the Bloody Buffers had flown from.

There, a young villager-like man was loosely dragging two Bloody Buffers by their horns with one hand. It was Kagami.

“Y-...You!”

Why was there a Villager dragging Bloody Buffers with one hand? It was too strange to be a joke. All of the gathered Adventurers looked surprised. However, the only one to say anything was the one who already knew and had conversed with this man, Krul.

Rex’s face distorted and he glared at the Villager with vengeance.

“Yoishotto.”

Kagami walked up to Krul and forcibly shoved the Bloody Buffers he had dragged along into the ground. Palna saw this and said, “It’s seriously planted in there,” with a dry smile.

“Why are you here...were the Bloody Buffers just now thrown by you? How on earth were these Bloody Buffers beaten?”

“So many questions. Is it normal to wonder if I am the only Villager in Balman? By the way, you don’t have to worry about these Bloody Buffers, because they’re unconscious.”

Kagami had a refreshed look, almost as if he had been plowing the fields. Krul

glared at Kagami with discontent.

“What’s the meaning of this! Even though we took great pains to try and face the Demon King Army with our combined force...You’re in the way! Did you just want to show off your own power like that? Or are you actually in league with the Demons...that little sister, of course!”

“Dosukoi”(TN: a type of cheer used in sumo matches, doesn’t really have a meaning. Now you know :3)

“Hyan!?”

Kagami had been thoughtlessly listening to Krul’s complaints, but he ran out of patience because it was taking too long. He released a light, powerless chop at Krul. Krul was naturally unable to respond to the chop and she raised a strange voice when it hit her.

“A-all of a sudden, what are you...? This is the first time in my life, since I was born, that I was hit by a gentleman!”

“It would be good to treat it as a valuable experience.”

When she saw Kagami showing no remorse, Krul glared at Kagami with a red face. He didn’t really understand if she was embarrassed, angry, or shy.

“Princess...although it’s a good idea to coordinate the timing of the attacks, you only get three points out of ten.”

Krul’s glare disappeared when she heard this and she looked bewildered instead.

“W-Why?”

“This is the town, right? It would be different if there was enough power to kill them in one blow, but isn’t it careless of you to attack them without that

guarantee? Won't it be dangerous if the weakened Monsters fall in a place with people in it? Hell Crows are Level 138, so they are dangerous even without flying. What were you trying to do?"

"T-That..."

Krul diverted her glare away from Kagami, wearing a clouded expression. She hadn't considered the damage that would occur while the nearby Adventurers tried to kill the Monsters that were brought down.

"Also, aren't bows and crossbows unwise? If they were to miss, the arrows would rain down onto the city. Wouldn't they cause serious wounds to whoever they hit? It would have been dangerous if Takako-chan wasn't there."

Kagami made eye contact with Takako, who gave a thumbs up as a 'good sign'.

After he had explained it to that extent, everyone in the hero's party, as well as Alice, understood the meaning behind Kagami's earlier actions. It was to protect the humans that lived in the town.

"Well, it's due to a lack of experience. You have to get more accustomed to fighting. However, I think your concept was good? After this, if you do your best, I think you will be able to instruct people more accurately. First of all, you should consider what should be the highest priority."

Krul was keenly aware that she had been too obsessed with the Monsters and hadn't really thought of anything else. She had wanted to try to bear the burden of defeating the Monsters alone, rather than wanting to be released from the responsibility. She felt an uncontrollable amount of gratitude towards Kagami.

"But, the Hero over there, you are useless. Zero points."

Before she could relay this gratitude, Kagami pointed at Rex while releasing an unusual hatred, causing her to swallow her words.

Rex was naturally scared and bewildered by the finger pointing at his body.

“W...why?”

“The power of your skill is wonderful. It’s as if that skill recognizes your greatness just from you learning it...but you made both the gold and drop items disappear. Just for that, I will never forgive you. It can’t be forgiven.”

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 12

After Kagami said this, Rex muttered “Yes?” with a puzzled expression. Almost all of the surrounding people reacted in a similar way. Meanwhile, Kagami directed his line of sight towards the Hell Crows that were still flying around in the air.

“For now, leave the disposal of the Hell Crows to me! Or rather, you should leave everything to me.”

“Hold up, hold up. Even though your power is really amazing, aren’t you helpless by yourself? Your opponents are flying in the sky.”

Palna folded her arms and responded to Kagami’s shout of “Leave the processing of the Drop Items to me too!” by pointing out the problem.

However, Kagami immediately lifted up the two Bloody Buffers he had been grabbing by their horns and threw them towards the flying Hell Crows with all his might.

“Ah! It was you!!”

Rex finally realized the true identity of the one who had sent the many Bloody Buffers flying towards the sky earlier, and he raised his voice while pointing at him.

“...!!”

Rex's face distorted when he saw the Hell Crow torn up by the direct hit from the flying Bloody Buffer. The attack seemed to give the impression that Kagami was assuming that he was the only one putting in effort.

"Y-You...aren't you a Villager? How do you have such power!?"

One of the Adventurers who didn't see him as an abnormal presence called out to him.

"Effort."

Nearly everyone made a drawn expression, unsatisfied with Kagami's statement, and wanted to say "What the hell is that guy talking about." Only Rex glared at Kagami, clenching his teeth.

If it was just effort, he himself had also given it. Nevertheless, he could not agree with the strength of that Villager, compared to his. Effort? It couldn't be a reason like that. He had put in effort many times. But was it still not enough? Was just training not enough, despite the power he had managed to obtain until now? It couldn't be such a thing. How on earth had that guy obtained the power to make such accusations? It was impossible for him to lose like that. Such thoughts were swirling around in Rex's mind.

"Even if you don't show it, I understand your power. I'm not such an idiot that I can't understand it, no matter how many times you show it to me. I say there isn't a way for you to defeat those guys up in the air. Aren't you helpless because a Villager can't use magic?"

Kagami was amazed at what Palna said and answered, "Well, there are none."

"Eh, Kagami-san can't use magic!?"

Alice, who had been secretly nearby, looked surprised when she heard Palna.

"Ara, it was...you. Wasn't she your little sister...Kagami-san?"

Palna reacted to the sudden voice, and everyone there looked towards Alice.

Most of those who looked at Alice had normal expressions. It was just the Hero's party who had skeptical looks.

Alice saw this situation and her sight slightly shifted to the right, thinking that she had been found out.

"I'm saying that my sister calls me by my name, since a long time ago. It's not like I wasn't going to give my name. I am Kagami. Call me Bishoujo Kagami-chan~"

"...But you aren't called that."

Kagami followed up in a split second, but Palna's suspicious gaze didn't change. Kagami splendidly ignored her gaze and moved until he was in front of Alice.

"Good, were you safe? Did they call you a chibi (TN:pipsqueak, small fry etc)? It's fine to call you a chibi until you're one litre though?" (It's a joke about her tits)

"I'm not a child! Rather, you're unable to use magic, Kagami-san?"

"Just because I'm Level 999 doesn't mean I'm omnipotent."

Alice stared at Kagami as he replied with an uneasy look on his face, as if he was appealing to her. To think that she had never had a chance to talk about magic with him. She stared at Kagami with a sorrowful look.

For a moment, Alice thought that it couldn't be helped, but now she really wanted to go to the toilet so she slightly directed her stare at the sky. Kagami assumed that Alice was thinking about what to say.

“Alright. It’s fine, so don’t worry about it. I’ll manage it, somehow.”

Alice loosened up after hearing those words, as if she felt relieved.

Krul lost her skeptical look when she saw this and slowly approached Alice. She hugged Alice while seeming to be slightly apologetic.

“I agree...it was scary, huh. I mean, you’re still so small. But it’s fine, we will surely annihilate the Demon King’s Army. That’s why, isn’t it fine to be at ease?”

Krul misunderstood that Alice had been frightened after seeing the Demon King’s Army and she gently smiled at Alice while reassuring her.

“Role, Princess. Skill, Misinterpretation.”

“...Did you say something?”

“...Isn’t it just your imagination?”

Krul faced Kagami, as if she wanted to ask him something, and, while looking as if she had seen a pitiful person, responded to him.

“Kagami-san...was it? I still haven’t introduced myself. I was born on the tenth month of the lunar calendar and I am called Krul • Hexal Doria. Although Kagami-san’s power has been repeatedly acknowledged, I don’t think we can make the Demon King’s Army understand Humanity’s power if we don’t coordinate our power now. I’m thankful for your suggestions earlier...but please leave this place to us.”

“Why do you think that you can make them understand?”

“Eh?”

She had been teeming with confidence that he would advocate her idea, so Kagami’s unexpected response surprised her. She was slightly bewildered, not

knowing the intent of the question. After taking a deep breath, she stared at Kagami in a serious manner.

“The Demon King’s Army doesn’t know Humanity’s potential. Therefore, we have to attack and show them our power. Regardless of whether we attacked carelessly or not, it’s necessary to make them understand! We need to try and attack them again, without thinking about things like being careless!”

“Even though you thought about it until now, why haven’t you noticed it?”

“What do you mean by that?”

“Why do you think that the Demon King’s Army doesn’t understand Humanity’s potential?”

In response to Kagami’s baffling question, Krul stopped and thought about it carefully. Although the question was unusual, it had a simple answer and she came up with it quickly.

“Because...the Demon King’s Army has never come to attack us?”

“That’s right! You understand well! Well done, well done!”

“P-Please don’t treat me like a child! What’s the point you’re trying to make?!”

Although she had said the answer to the question herself, Krul didn’t care about it and raised her voice while blushing in response to Kagami. When Kagami saw this, he thought from the bottom of his heart that her common sense was terrible and let out a slight sigh.

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 13

“There have been no attacks until now because of the Demon King’s will, right? But they came and attacked. Did something happen to the Demon King? Do you not think that there was some type of change with the Demon King?”

“That may be...but even if something did happen, it wouldn’t change the fact that the Demon King is an enemy. I do not know what changed, but it is undeniable that they came to attack.”

When he saw the look in Krul’s eyes, which were filled with conviction, he looked up towards the Hell Crows in the sky and then stared off into the distance while saying “Well, yeah.”

People’s opinions wouldn’t change so easily. Kagami knew this well. That was why he had given up on various things. He had just fought alone and continued to gather gold for his own purposes.

Since she couldn’t see things from Kagami’s perspective, she could never understand him. Kagami realized this from her desire to fight.

“...Well, yeah. The Demon King is certainly an enemy, for humans that is.”

Alice’s expression dimmed at these words. However, as if he wanted to comfort her, he put his hand on Alice and continued to speak.

“That’s why it’s fine if the Demon King defeats you guys, and it’s fine if he had

plans to defeat you from the start. But, what would you do if the Demons who came to attack this time were unrelated to the Demon King?”

“The Demon Army that is attacking now...has no relations to the Demon King?”

Of course, it was a remark that indicated that Kagami had some kind of understanding of the connection between the Demon King and the Demon King Army that was attacking right now. At the same time, he had insisted that something was wrong.

It was a fact that it was the first time Humanity had been attacked by the Demons, even though the Demon King wasn't there.

“They might be acting violently after borrowing the authority of the Demon King, but there are also Demons who hold a grudge against the Demon King and might be trying to lure Humanity to a quick defeat. It might just be a trap.”

“...And? After all that, what is it that you want to say?”

Palna was unable to stand Kagami's pompous way of speaking any longer and she glared at him, as if angry, while letting out a sigh.

“Instead of defeating them, you should apprehend and interrogate them. Isn't it more important to learn the truth than to show your strength? In any case, even if they are an enemy, let's go listen to them to learn about their internal affairs. It looks like they are over there.”

“What will you do after listening to them? It's not like they will stop being enemies. Besides, aren't they in the sky? It's impossible to catch them.”

“You would be able to figure out if it is a trap or something else that they're plotting, right? You don't have to defeat them just because they're an enemy. Saying that it's useless to catch them...don't you realize that you are giving up?”

Palna felt sweat run down her cheek as she listened to Kagami's words. She attempted to talk before deciding to listen to him. Kagami directed his sight to

Takako and both of them nodded their heads.

“K-Kagami-san, what do you intend to do?”

“Something like this.”

Right after Alice asked her question, Kagami snapped his fingers as a signal. Takako vigorously kicked off of the ground, generating a tremor that felt like an earthquake, and jumped into the sky. Kagami also jumped into the sky, with enough speed to catch up to Takako, and left a crater in the ground, as if there had been an explosion.

“Takako-chan, I’ll leave it to you!”

“Please leave it to me. It’s a free human transport service with no guarantee of keeping one’s life...I’ll go? Go dieeeeeee!

Before the approaching Kagami caught up and passed by her, Takako twisted and rotated her body and kicked Kagami up into the sky with all her might. Kagami flew as if he had been blown away by her feet.

Kagami had willfully named the skill,【Takako Bazooka】. It was a Jump Combination technique which allowed Takako to send someone into the sky.

It was a skill that he had requested Takako to use once in the past out of curiosity. He hadn’t thought of using it to make someone fly until now. Kagami had received damage beyond his expectations so the skill had been sealed, with the reason being “It is useless.”

However, it was the perfect skill for the current situation, where the enemy was in the sky. The pair had come to a mutual understanding just by meeting their gazes.

“Ah, well, this and that.”

Consequently, this skill had a weakness that couldn't be understood with the few attempts Kagami and Takako had made.

“Didn't know this makes someone pass through without hitting anything at all.”

If it wasn't targeted properly, it became rather sad because the person would pass by without hitting anything. Takako noticed that, after kicking him upwards, Kagami was clearly flying towards the beautiful night sky that was filled with stars but empty of Hell Crows.

“Goodbye, Kagami-chan~”

Takako immediately gave up on Kagami's life. Giving up, she closed her mouth with her hand as she fell back down towards the ground and teared up. It was as if she wanted to say something, even if it was irrelevant.

“Aaaaaaaah-.....!”

Sure enough, Kagami missed the flock of Hell Crows by a large amount and flew higher into the sky. It was as if life's mysteries had come from the ground into the air, while raising his voice, and the Demon who was riding on one of the Hell Crows instinctively felt fear.

“W-...What is this town, exactly...? Is it really a human town? Not only do Bloody Buffers come flying, but humans as well...? Indiscriminate? Are they indiscriminate?”

The heart rates of the Demons that called themselves the Demon King Army rose to unprecedented levels.

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 14

It was likely that the situation was different from what they had predicted. The Bloody Buffers had understood that their only purpose was to cause destruction and confusion, since it was a town of Adventurers.

Even if, by chance, a hero had come to stay in this town, the Hero's usage of the Light Slash was limited to defeating one Hell Crow.

However, it was unexpected for the Bloody Buffers to be blown into the sky, especially by a single human.

Although the thrown Bloody Buffers had only hit the Hell Crows, the Demon was uncertain as to whether humans had also been hit and gradually became fearful.

(ED: He's scared because he thinks that the humans don't care about friendly fire.)

There was something unexpected within this town.

"Calm down a little."

"Do you think I can be calm!? This plan is really crazy! Shit...By this, Demon King-sama's dignity will be...!"

The voice behind him caused him to hang his head and lose his composure in anger.

After several seconds passed, he realized that there was a puzzling presence behind him, which had spoken with him as if it were natural. He did not know why it had come to talk to him, but there shouldn't have been any being who could talk to him while he was in the air. He became pale and nervously glanced behind him.

“Who the hell are you...!?”

“What's with that outdated speech? I'm just a villager who is passing by.”

The Demon was at a loss for words when he saw the bizarre scene of the presence in front of him calmly standing amongst the Hell Crows. The presence was casually enjoying the view that could be seen from this height. As if there would be a Villager in this situation. Villager?

“Villagers...should know the limits of their bodies!”

When the fearful Demon recognized the existence in front of him as a Villager, he impatiently pointed his palm at Kagami and released three shots of close range Blast Annihilation Magic. The blast of the fierce explosions and the sweltering heat attacked Kagami, but...

“Calm down.”

Only the upper portions of his clothing had been blown off. The person who had been hit by the magic repeated his earlier words, while staying composed.

Kagami had taken damage, without a doubt. His skin was burnt and blood was dripping from the wound inflicted by the explosion. However, the damage done was too low.

The Demon had planned his attack to show his true strength. Three blasts of his Blast Annihilation magic should have been enough to kill opponents who

were around Level 80, or at least leave them on the brink of death. He shivered at Kagami's composed look and thought, "That guy is..."

"How did you come here...? Answer me, human."

"A gorilla-like person kicked me. You might think that it was useless to have landed on a Hell Crow by luck, but I got here by riding the other Hell Crows."

Although the Demon couldn't really understand what was being said, he realized that this human was the one who had flown by earlier.

"Who are you...perhaps you aren't a Villager? Are you a Hero? Or maybe you're a Sage?"

"Nope. I'm just a normal Villager."

Kagami revealed his Status Window's Level and Role, as usual. When the Demon saw the Level value of 999, he was speechless from surprise.

"I-Impossible! Surely such humans don't exist!"

He made a remark a few seconds later, as if his heart had temporarily stopped beating.

"No, they do."

Kagami became doubtful and made a troubled expression when he saw the fervent and narrow-minded Demon.

"You aren't listening...if there are guys like you out there, then, by this, the position of the Demon King will be...!"

"Ah, calm down. I don't have any desires at all to defeat the Demon King."

“...? What do you mean?”

“I am friends with the Demon King’s daughter after all. The name is Kagami Kouji. It’s a pleasure.”

The Demon showed a mixture of confusion and surprise at Kagami’s words.

“I don’t really understand what you are saying.”

“Well, the meaning is that I am currently traveling with and taking care of the Demon King’s daughter.”

“...!? You’re saying that Alice-sama is in this town!?”

Although the Demon did not know if what Kagami said was true, he feared that he might have put the Demon King’s daughter in danger and his chest felt painful.

Before this operation began, the Demon had searched for Alice, because there had been an order from the Demon King to bring Alice back. He had headed towards the Demon Village where Alice was supposed to be living but could not find her, even though the Demon King Army had searched the surroundings in full force.

Therefore, regardless of the real intentions of this man, who claimed he was a friend of the Demon King, the chance of Alice being here was considerable. After all, there was no reason for a normal human to know that the Demon King had a daughter.

“Are you...an ally of Demons?”

Although it was very unlikely, the Demon at least tried to ask Kagami.

“I’m neither an ally nor an enemy. Though, I think that it’s inevitable that the Demon King will be killed.”

The Demon slightly regained his composure. Kagami's expression brightened when he saw that the Demon understood some of what he was talking about.

"Finally, I'm saved because there is a guy who will actually speak with me. I'm a human so nobody would listen to me, just because I'm supposed to be an enemy."

"If you mean that you didn't come to defeat me, what are you planning to do? Did you come to tell me that you are holding Alice-sama hostage?!"

"I came to ask questions."

When Kagami smiled, the Demon felt a chill and was unable to say anything. It wasn't because of the height or the swift, cold wind caused by the Hell Crow's flying speed. The Demon was attacked by an overwhelming feeling of anxiety and felt as if his hands and feet had been completely bound.

"This attack operation, was it an order from the Demon King?"

"It-...It was undeniably an order from the Demon King! Demon King-sama has finally begun to move in order to dispel the humiliation we have received from the humans until now! Humans must all be destroyed!"

"Although I said earlier that I'm neither an enemy nor an ally, if I am an enemy, isn't it fine if I just decide to kill the Demon King?"

That was when the Demon finally understood what he had been sensing. The eyes of the man in front of him were bloodthirsty, as if indicating that the man was coming to hit him. As if the man would be willing to resort to such an unspeakable lie.

Perhaps noticing this, Kagami stopped smiling and became expressionless. Although Kagami's words had not been a joke, the Demon concluded that he could confirm Kagami's true intentions behind coming up to such a place.

“Bastard...you said earlier that you are friends with the Demon King. Is that...really true?”

“Aah, that. I exaggerated so I could calmly talk with you. Although our relationship isn’t good enough to be called friends...he is an old acquaintance. I was treated well, a long time ago.”

“You said that you were treated well?”

“Aah, the Demon King at the time wasn’t really a guy who was thinking of trying to destroy the humans. Rather...he was a philosophical person. That’s the reason that I came here.”

Kagami closed his eyes and let out a big sigh, as if remembering the olden days.

Then he slowly opened his eyes and drew nearer to the Demon. He opened his mouth while meeting the Demon’s gaze seriously.

“Is it really the Demon King who gave that order? Did the Demon King say it to you in person?”

The Demon was overwhelmed by Kagami’s seriousness. He wondered, “Why would this man worry about the Demon King giving such an order?”

“Alice said that the Demon King had collapsed because of an illness.”

“...Alice-sama did? Impossible. The Demon King is alive and well!”

“Alice has been running around alone for the Demon King. Since she’s like that, she wouldn’t think of the possibility that you guys are lying. While on the subject, I don’t think that she believes that the Demon King would destroy humans either.”

The Demon realized that Kagami’s bloodthirst earlier was not because Kagami had come to try to kill him.

He honestly believed that the Demon King wasn't someone who would do such a thing, so he was confirming whether or not his trust had been betrayed. The fear the Demon had felt from Kagami's earlier bloodthirst was slightly eased by this realization.

Such Things, What Value Do They Have? – Part 15

“You said...Demon King-sama is sick?”

When his fear subsided, he remembered meeting the Demon King in person at the Demon King’s Castle before he came here. The safety of the Demon King took precedence over anything else, but the Demon King within his memories had, without a doubt, been majestically seated upon his throne.

There wasn’t anything particularly strange in what he remembered, though he might have been wrong about it. Like always, the Demon King had been seated on his throne in the deepest part of the huge palace. The one who called himself the General of the Demon King’s Army and also served as the Demon King’s butler, Estelar Urgot, had been on the Demon King’s right side and had given the order to the Demon.

Although he hadn’t thought anything was strange back then, the Demon noticed something was amiss.

“...The one who gave the order to me is not Demon King-sama?”

He placed a hand on his mouth and muttered, despite his worries. Kagami smiled without hesitation when he heard this.

“Hey, isn’t it still too early to decide?”

“I-It is, but wait! Demon King-sama was nearby! We couldn’t have denied that

order!?”

“That’s why I said it’s too early to decide. I, too, don’t know what happened. There is the chance that he had a change of heart and is trying to conquer the world, but isn’t it also possible that he is being manipulated by someone?”

“Being manipulated? Impossible! It’s impossible for a gentleman like the Demon King to be manipulated!”

“I only said that it was a possibility. I don’t know if it’s true, but Alice said that the Demon King is sick.”

For the time being, since it was unknown whether the Demon King could issue a command, Kagami’s bloodthirst disappeared and he replied optimistically.

The Demon considered Kagami’s words. If this story was true, Kagami’s existence would become a danger to him. Originally, the purpose of this operation was to let the Adventurers gathered in this town learn of the existence of the Demon King Army. The aim was to overwhelm the Adventurers with the feeling that nowhere was safe so that, in the future, they would be more likely to die. The goal wasn’t to destroy the Adventurers.

If nothing else, it wouldn’t be a big problem if he returned now. The Demon removed his cloak and dispersed the magic in his body while issuing a command.

“Full speed to the Demon King’s Castle! Confirm Demon King-sama’s true intentions...!”

When he issued the command, the flock of Hell Crows all immediately changed their course and headed towards the southwest of Balman.

“No, I won’t let you do that.”

At the same time, Kagami grabbed the head of the Hell Crow he was riding and forcibly moved it towards the other Hell Crows.

When he got close enough, he jumped off of his Hell Crow and grabbed another Hell Crow, throwing it towards the others while in midair. He then landed back on the first Hell Crow, as if he had adjusted it to catch him as he came down.

“Look! Quickly! Heal before I fall! Heal!”

He grabbed the head of the Hell Crow again and moved it towards the two Hell Crows that had changed into gems and gold. He moved both of his arms at a speed that was too fast to be seen and caught everything.

“What are you doing y-you bastard! Aren’t you also worried about Demon King-sama? I have to go and confirm it! Whether or not this operation is truly something Demon King-sama wants!”

“No but...they’re Hell Crows.”

Because they’re Hell Crows? The Demon couldn’t understand at all and he felt like he was crazy when he saw the gloating Villager in front of him.

“T-Then, I’ll let you follow me, you bastard! After you follow me, I’ll let you deal with the Hell Crows as you wish! How about that?”

“No~, well, I absolutely must bring Alice with me.”

“T-Then, it’s fine if you bring Alice-sama along as well! We’ll let Alice-sama ride on one of the Hell Crows that’s falling down right now and head towards the Demon King’s Castle! You shouldn’t have any complaints like this!”

“Well~, won’t they die the moment they land on the ground? There’s a Hero down below, too.”

“In that case, go down separately and bring Alice-sama with you! I’ll wait for you!”

“Calm down!”

Kagami gestured for the screaming Demon to shut his mouth before staring into his eyes seriously.

“There is a possibility that the Demon King is being manipulated and there’s also a possibility that you made a fool out of yourself. If you go and try to confirm it, the Demon King, or rather you, might be put in harm’s way. *Don’t put the cart before the horse. Wouldn’t it be easier to secretly investigate the way to get into the Demon King’s Castle after pretending to be beaten to death by the humans? Besides, I don’t want there to be a weird rumor about me going together with a Demon who was betrayed. In other words, nobody will benefit from us traveling there in the air like this. That’s why I think that defeating all the Hell Crows here would make it a win-win situation. Also, it would be annoying to let all these Hell Crows return to the Demon King’s Castle without turning into gems and gold. Extremely annoying. This is very important. It’s much better to walk there, so I want gold immediately. Do you understand?”

(TN: idiom that means you’ve got your priorities reversed)

“I don’t understand at all.”

As the Demon responded, Kagami jumped onto another Hell Crow. He then jumped onto a third Hell Crow, almost as if he had kicked the previous one, and repeated this action multiple times with lightning speed.

The moment he jumped off of a Hell Crow, it changed into gems and gold. When the last Hell Crow, which the Demon was riding, fell towards the ground, Kagami began to gather the falling gems and gold.

The Demon was stunned and could only watch Kagami. There had not been any time for him to interfere either. The ten Hell Crows had been taken out in ten seconds and his was the only one left.

“B-...Bastard. Good god...no, that was too quick. Stop collecting the gems! You’re carrying too much! At this rate, we will fall down with the Hell Crows!”

“B-...Bastard. Good god...no, that was too quick. Stop collecting the gems! You’re carrying too much! At this rate, we will fall down with the Hell Crows!”

“W-...What do you mean by that?”

Sure enough, Kagami was with the Demon and a large amount of gems and gold had been stacked on top of one of the Hell Crows. With a “Gueh!”, the Hell Crow raise a bitter cry and steadily dropped in altitude.

Kagami, who had fallen a bit, beat up the Hell Crows above him. When the last Hell Crow turned into clumps of gold and gems, Kagami and the Demon fell, along with the gems and gold.

“W-Will this save us, even if we fall down? Is that fine!?”

“If it’s from this height, then probably...It might hurt me a little. As for you, it might be really painful.”

“What did...you say?...AaaaaaaaAAH!”

Kagami and the Demon fell into the middle of the vast forest that existed southwest of Balman. He crashed into the ground in a straight line, while the Demon fell while being hit by tree branches and leaves.

“W-What are you doing!?”

“Didn’t you burn my clothes? I want to wrap the gems with cloth.”

Kagami placed the cloak he took from the Demon on the ground and began to move the fallen gold and gems onto it. The Demon, who had been hurt by the fall, silently watched him.

“Now that I think about it, I didn’t ask for your name. What is it?”

Kagami asked the Demon, who was leaning against a tree, as he collected the

gems.

“Menou ▪ Abebrasham...A descendant of a family that has served Demon King-sama for ages. Demon King-sama...I began to serve him and Alice-sama three years ago.”

“Hee-Then, you are quite young. That reminds me, when I went to the Demon Palace a long time ago, there was a butler-like old man.”

“That would be my grandfather. He passed away three years ago. He had placed his hopes on me, and I was supposed to succeed him.”

Kagami continued gathering gems as he listened to Menou. Despite a Demon being so close, Kagami continued to gather the gems, as if the Demon wasn't there. Menou felt strange when he saw this.

“You bastard...you won't kill me?”

“Don't ask such a question. It just sounds stupid.”

“Sounds stupid...you say?”

If a Demon and a Human were trying to settle matters between themselves, it would be normal for them to try to kill each other. It was strange for the man in front of him to not do that, and his unexpected words made Menou lose his bearings.

“It's obvious that you will fight if you hate humans and are in a situation where fighting is the only option, but you don't seem to be that kind of person. More than anything else...aren't you really worried about Alice and the Demon King right now? Such a nice guy.”

“W-...What an idiot, saying such things. You must have some kind of a relationship with humans!”

“In my opinion, those humans are idiots. If there weren’t any Monsters, we would know that. However, because of the Monsters, Humans fear death and oppose Demons. That’s the only reason, right? It’s just Humans and Demons fighting each other. Even though they are similar existences, to fight just because of that...that’s why, I don’t really want to kill Demons.”

Menou was shocked for a moment by these unexpected words but, for some reason, he was immediately convinced. Kagami’s credibility was also enhanced by the fact that, despite this situation where Menou couldn’t do anything, he continued to gather the gems without harming Menou.

“Well, I’ve gathered the gems and gold now. I’ll go home and say that I’ve defeated all of them. I’ll bring Alice here around noon tomorrow, so let’s go to the Demon King’s Castle together at that time. I had only planned to send Alice there but I also want to go and see what condition the Demon King is in.”

“Why do we need to go together? Won’t there be a higher risk of being hunted down by the humans?”

“But isn’t it dangerous for you to try to go back by yourself from here? Besides, even if you go back, it’s dangerous. Won’t it be more reassuring for Alice if you’re with us? You don’t have to worry, since I will protect her.”

Menou was dumbfounded. After seeing Menou’s expression, Kagami said, “Well, see ya tomorrow,” and left. He was carrying the gems and gold wrapped in the Demon’s cloak on his back.

“Demon King-sama and Alice-sama are friends with a human?.....Hmph.”

Menou imagined it and snorted while thinking, “There are also these types of humans.” Although it was very slightly, he accepted Kagami.

He suddenly looked up into the night sky and saw the full moon. His mood became brighter and he calmed down as he heard the night wind blowing through the starry sky.

He had attacked and was defeated. He had not been victorious but being comforted had filled his heart with wonder.